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JOHN LENNON ★ DON PENDLETON ★ JIMMY CARTER

MARVEL PREVIEW presents

ALL NEW!

UFO CONNECTION!™

SPECIAL:
SECRETS OF THE ILLUMINATI—*REVEALED!*
"COSMIC TRIGGER"
by ROBERT ANTON WILSON

PYRAMID POWER!

OUR WORLD-
IN A **SECRET WAR** WITH
BEINGS FROM BEYOND THE **STARS!**

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Or is it actually happening ...*right NOW?*

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Vol. 1/No. 13

Winter 1978

UFO CONNECTION!

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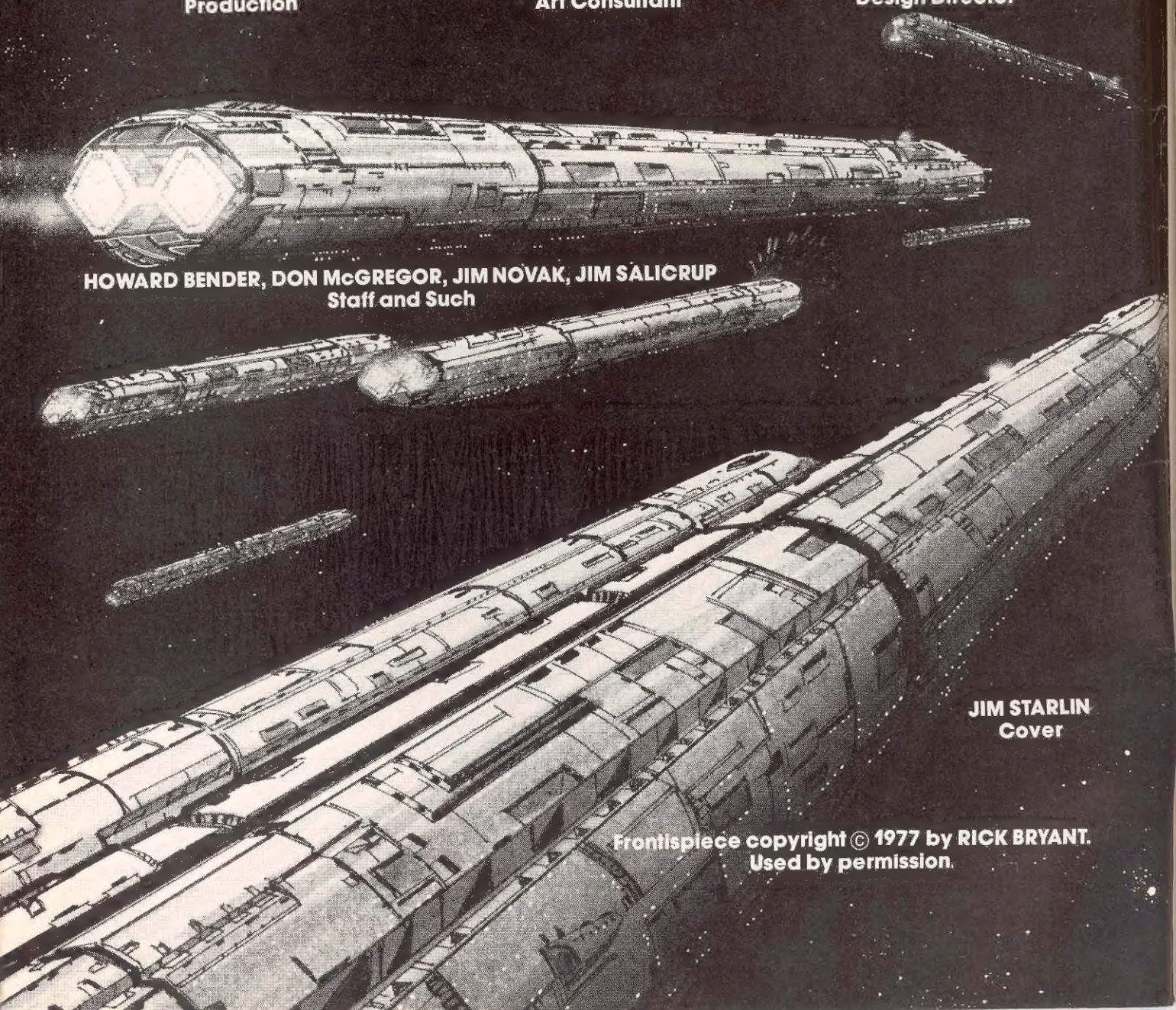

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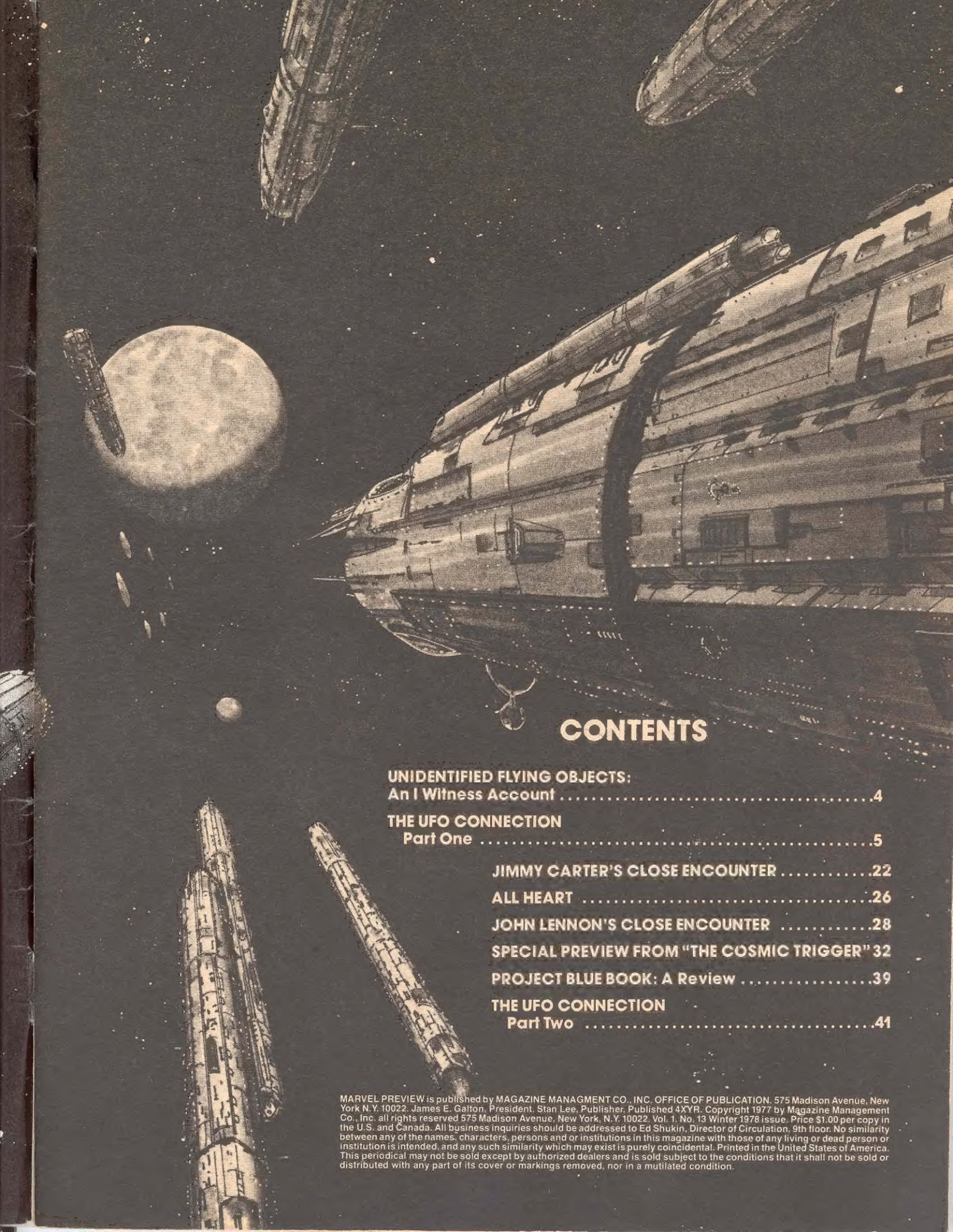

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UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.

An I Witness Report

by David Anthony Kraft

(Or: Editorial Encounters of the Worst Kind!)

photo by D. Jon Zimmerman

The answer to the obvious unvoiced question is — *no*! As of this writing, I have *not* yet seen CE3K—despite the fact that this project will see print at least two months after the release of *Steven Spielberg's* much-touted motion picture. Indeed, if not for certain unanticipated scheduling problems, "The UFO Connection!" would have appeared in our previous issue of MARVEL PREVIEW, much in advance of the eventual unveiling of the secretive CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. And, despite the congruity of some elements, our storylines are, I strongly suspect, quite dissimilar—so you can scan the following saga secure in the knowledge that it's a new story designed to stand completely on its own merits and not just another quickie rip-off of a current box-office biggie.

My interest in the essential concept as a storyline dates back a couple years, and a DAK/UFO feature almost appeared at one time as a color comic-book series. Remembering that, my editorial predecessor, Roguish *Roger Slifer,* prevailed upon me to develop the concept for MARVEL PREVIEW and prodded me through the early stages of the project. Then he left me to finish up on my own.

My interest in the essential UFO concept, itself, dates back much farther than a couple years, though — all the way back to my childhood *close encounter of the third kind!*

That's right, I've really seen animate alien beings with my own eyes!

Not only that, but there were adult witnesses, as well... in case my being underage at the time might cast any doubt on the veracity of my statements. I grew up in central North Dakota, in a very rural region, and although I never saw anything alien around my home area, it was not at all unusual to sight bizarre goings on in the small wooded region surrounding my grandmother's domicile.

On one such occasion, while playing outside during late afternoon, I witnessed a blue globe hovering slightly above the level of the treetops. It was neither rising nor bobbing in the breeze, and most definitely it was not a balloon. I immediately called my grandma, who stood with me and watched as the globe commenced settling smoothly and slowly out of sight among the trees. I wanted to chase after it and have a closer look— but apparently it terrified my grandma, who quickly dragged me inside, locked the door, and wouldn't let me go outside again until sometime the next day. I searched, but found no trace of the object.

Again, there was the time we were preparing to retire for the evening, when she was tidying up the house and in so doing snatched up a dirty pair of dungarees, only to leap back screaming and toss them down again in stark fear. There, clearly visible in the bright electric light from overhead, was a small — *alien* — creature! Weird and silly as it may sound, the best way to describe it is as an animated, living pair of scissors. The bizarre being uttered no audible sounds at all, but began darting frantically about the room as we tried in vain to corner and capture it. Finally, despite my grandmother's adept use of a broom, the strange specimen escaped out the door — which was ajar that hot summer night to allow a cooling breeze to enter. Insofar as I am aware, among all the land-dwelling species on Earth, there is none which resembles the scissors creature we saw that night. It is a mystery which remains unsolved to this day.

Another time, there was the metal robot — as big as me, back in those days — that appeared in the storage garage one day, and promptly disappeared the next! As I mentioned earlier, these unusual events were confined to a small region around my grandmother's rural residence, although they *did* extend to sightings and experiences by the neighbors, too.

Thus, I have had my share of *close encounters* — and, needless to say, my curiosity is aroused!

Perhaps this issue of MARVEL PREVIEW will arouse *your* curiosity, as well — on the UFO phenomenon and such seemingly-related topics as psychic energy and ESP, out-of-body experiences, possessions, and even pyramid power. If so, in addition to entertaining you, we've also served a further (and perhaps more valuable) service.

Before I bow out and let the story speak for itself, I also want to add a few words about the rest of this issue. We're privileged, indeed, to be able to present a special preview of COSMIC TRIGGER by Robert Anton Wilson, who co-wrote the ILLUMINATUS trilogy with Robert Shea. A spiffy trade paperback edition of the COSMIC TRIGGER book is available now by mail for $4.95 plus postage and handling from Peter Beren and the kind folks at And/Or Press, Box 2246, Berkeley, CA 94702 — and a popular paperback edition should be available from Dell sometime in the not-too-distant future, at bookstores near you.

Special thanks are in order for both *D. Jon Zimmerman* (who, in addition to doing invaluable research, also helped me out of a corner into which I'd plotted myself) and *Don McGregor* (who helped me out of another tight corner into which I was forced by the deadline). They're both titans—and real pals, to boot!

Finally, to come full cycle and end approximately where I began, let it be known that Artful *Archie Goodwin* is even now at work on a Marvel-ous comics-magazine adaptation of the aforementioned CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND film opus — and it promises to be a blockbuster, so watch for it, won't you?

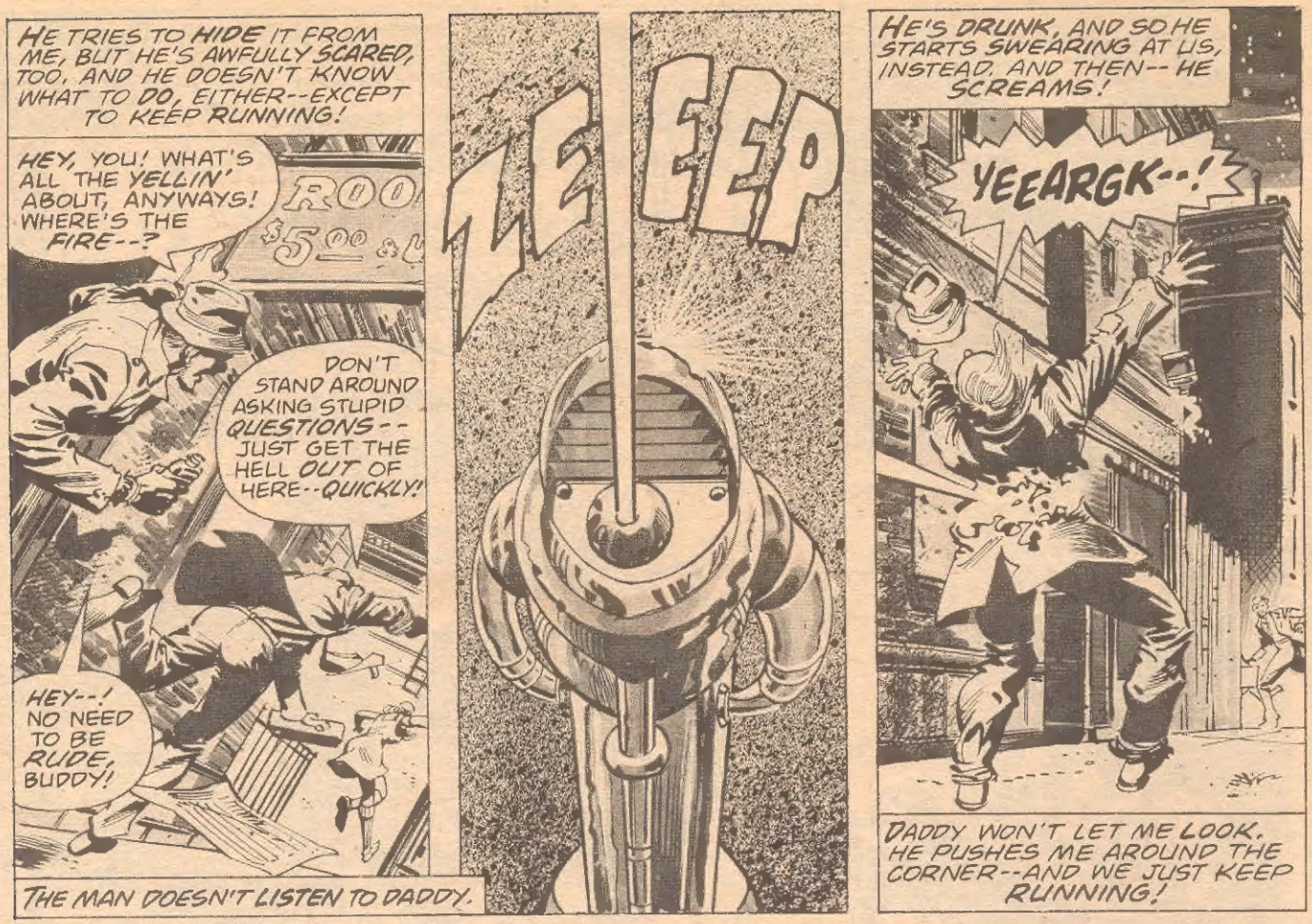
Take care, stay aware — and please send me a personal line or two on your reactions to "The UFO Connection!" I'll be waiting.

*

DADDY SAYS WE'RE ALWAYS IN DANGER! THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE... WATCHING US AND WAITING!
THE UFO CONNECTION!
PART 1
WAITING FOR JUST THE RIGHT CHANCE TO KILL US! AND WE NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY'LL ATTACK NEXT AND TAKE US BY SURPRISE--
--LIKE RIGHT NOW!
CHRIST! ONE OF THEIR MURDER MACHINES--ABOUT TO STRIKE FROM THAT GARBAGE CAN!
MMMM
RUN, SISSIE-- RUN!
ME AND DADDY ARE ALL ALONE--AND I'M REAL, REAL SCARED. BUT I TRY TO ACT BRAVE LIKE DADDY, 'CAUSE HE TELLS ME TO--AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO!

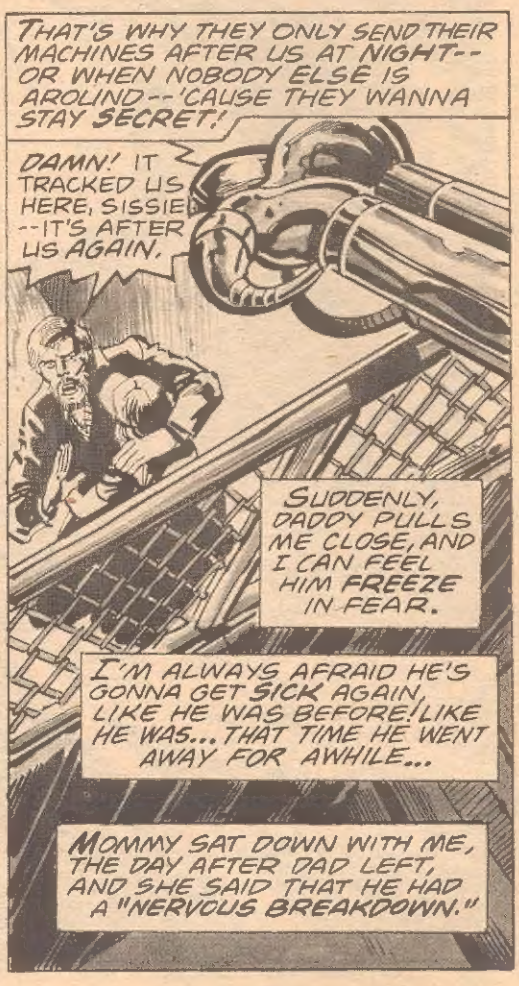
Conceived, written & edited by
DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT

Illustrated & Embellished by
HERB TRIMPE and KLAUS JANSON


HE TRIES TO HIDE IT FROM ME, BUT HE'S AWFULLY SCARED, TOO, AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, EITHER--EXCEPT TO KEEP RUNNING!
HEY, YOU! WHAT'S ALL THE YELLIN' ABOUT, ANYWAYS! WHERE'S THE FIRE--?
DON'T STAND AROUND ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS--JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE--QUICKLY!
HEY--! NO NEED TO BE RUDE, BUDDY!
THE MAN DOESN'T LISTEN TO DADDY.
HE'S DRUNK, AND SO HE STARTS SWEARING AT US, INSTEAD, AND THEN--HE SCREAMS!
YEEARGK--!
DADDY WON'T LET ME LOOK. HE PUSHES ME AROUND THE CORNER--AND WE JUST KEEP RUNNING!

THE MAN'S SCREAM SOUNDED A LOT LIKE MOMMY'S--AND, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WANT TO CRY OUT, BUT I CAN'T...
I'M RUNNING SO HARD THAT ALL I CAN DO IS SOB AND GASP FOR AIR AS TEARS BURN MY EYES AND STREAM DOWN MY CHEEKS!
WE RUN AND RUN AND RUN--UNTIL WE CAN'T RUN ANY FARTHER!

THEN, DADDY WHISPERS TO ME TO KEEP REAL STILL.
MAYBE WE'VE ELUDED IT, SISSIE...MAYBE WE'VE ESCAPED! IF WE CAN SOMEHOW GET BACK TO A MORE ACTIVE AREA OF THE CITY, I THINK WE'LL BE SAFE!
DADDY IS RIGHT.
THEY'RE SNEAKY. THEY DON'T LIKE TO BE SEEN.


THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY SEND THEIR MACHINES AFTER US AT NIGHT--OR WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND--'CAUSE THEY WANNA STAY SECRET!
DAMN! IT TRACKED US HERE, SISSIE--IT'S AFTER US AGAIN.
SUDDENLY, DADDY PULLS ME CLOSE, AND I CAN FEEL HIM FREEZE IN FEAR.
I'M ALWAYS AFRAID HE'S GONNA GET SICK AGAIN, LIKE HE WAS BEFORE! LIKE HE WAS...THAT TIME HE WENT AWAY FOR AWHILE...
MOMMY SAT DOWN WITH ME, THE DAY AFTER DAD LEFT, AND SHE SAID THAT HE HAD A "NERVOUS BREAKDOWN."

I REMEMBER HOW HE USED TO GET A FUNNY LOOK ON HIS FACE, SOMETIMES, IT HAPPENED MORE AND MORE OFTEN, UNTIL HE STARTED ACTING LIKE A STRANGER TOWARD MOMMY AND ME.

THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WENT AWAY, I TRIED TO KISS HIM AND GET HIM TO HUG ME--

--BUT HE PUSHED ME AWAY, AND I RAN TO MY ROOM, CRYING THAT HE DIDN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE.

MOMMY SAID IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS SICK.

WHEN HE CAME HOME WELL, HE LOVED ME AGAIN, JUST LIKE BEFORE.

BUT, SOMETIMES, LIKE NOW, HE STILL GETS THAT FUNNY LOOK ON HIS FACE. I'M SO AFRAID HE'S GONNA GET SICK AGAIN, AND THEN THERE'LL BE NO ONE LEFT TO LOVE ME.

HE'S BEEN GETTING THAT LOOK A LOT...EVER SINCE TUESDAY AFTERNOON... BUT SO FAR IT ALWAYS GOES AWAY. TUESDAY'S WHEN...WHEN EVERYTHING BAD HAPPENED. WE HAVE A NICE HOUSE IN PARAMUS PARK, NEW JERSEY, AND WE WERE ALL THERE TOGETHER-- DAD AND MOM AND ME.

DADDY USED TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, BEFORE HE GOT "SICK IN THE HEAD" (THAT'S WHAT THE KIDS AT SCHOOL CALLED IT, AND EVEN THOUGH I TOLD 'EM MOMMY SAID IT WAS ONLY A... A "BREAKDOWN"... THE KIDS MADE ME FEEL LIKE DADDY WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR SOME KINDA BAD SIN.)

DAD WAS A BIG SCIENTIST, BACK THEN, AND LOTS OF PEOPLE LOVED HIM, THEY REALLY DID. HE SAID HE HAD A FANCY-SCHMANTZY JOB AND THAT HE WAS WORKING ON "ENERGY PROBLEMS"... UNTIL HE GOT SICK. THEN, THEY DIDN'T WANT HIM ANYMORE.

SO HE STAYED HOME AND WORKED ON IDEAS OF HIS OWN, DOWN IN THE BASEMENT. AND I LIKED TO WATCH HIM.

IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING SO MUCH TIME ON, TOM-- A HOMEMADE PUP TENT?

FINALLY, IT'S FULLY FUNCTIONAL! TODAY, I'VE PROVED MY THEORY THAT SO-CALLED PYRAMID POWER IS BASED IN FACT!

DADDY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE DANGER, THEN.

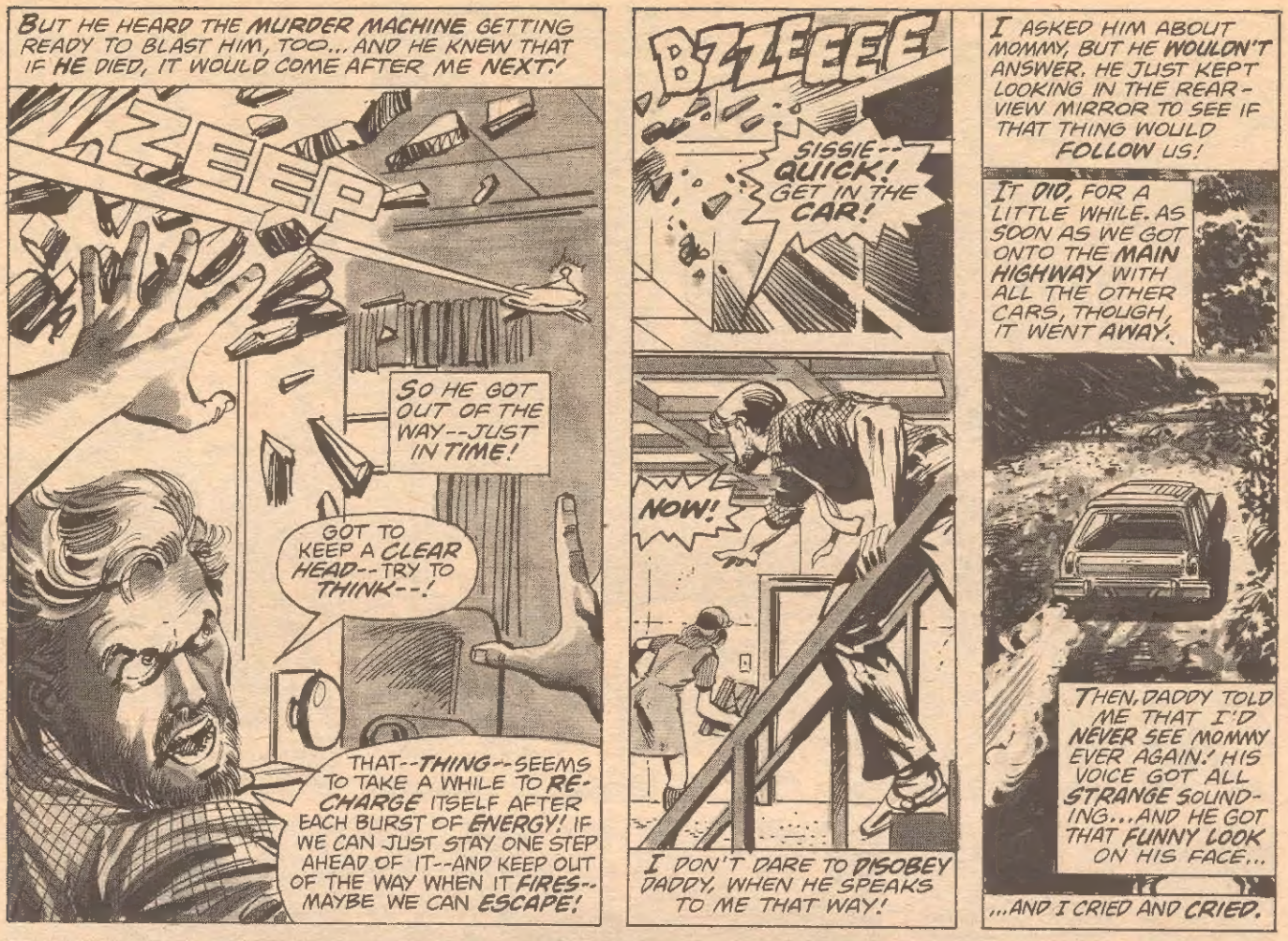
THE PRECISE SHAPE-- IN EXACTLY THE PROPER DIMENSIONS--

--ACTS AS AN ENERGY ACCUMULATOR, INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE WHEN ENHANCED WITH ELECTRONIC MICRO-CIRCUITRY! WILHELM REICH'S SIMILAR EXPERIMENTS WITH ORGONE ENERGY CONVINCED ME I WAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

WELL, LUNCH IS ALMOST READY.

GEE, MOM-- AREN'T YOU EXCITED? IF IT REALLY WORKS LIKE DAD SAYS--

--MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TO PAY ANY MORE ELECTRIC BILLS! RIGHT, DADDY?
SLOW DOWN, SIS-- IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO PREDICT PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS STRANGE ENERGY, BUT IF IT CAN BE HARNESSED--AND IF THIS SIMPLE PYRAMID STRUCTURE SERVES AS A STEADY POWER SOURCE-- IT'LL HERALD A WHOLE NEW ERA IN ENERGY.
BEST OF ALL, THE PYRAMID STRUCTURE IS COMPLETELY PORTABLE!
MOMMY HAD TO GO BACK UPSTAIRS, TO ANSWER THE DOORBELL, BUT DADDY WENT RIGHT ON TELLING ME ALL ABOUT HIS IN-VENTION.
HE WAS SO HAPPY.
RARRINGG!
THAT MUST BE THE DELIVERY PEOPLE! BUT WHY DO THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO COME AT MEAL TIME WITH MORE OF TOM'S--
--GADGETS--?!? WAIT A MINUTE -- WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THERE AREN'T ANY MEN--ONLY THIS...THIS WEIRD FLYING OBJECT! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
MMMMMMMM
IT'S COMING CLOSER-- RIGHT AT ME!
MMMMMMMM
I--I'D BETTER CALL TOM!
WE WERE STARTING UP THE STEPS WHEN WE HEARD MOMMA SCREAM.
BZAAP!
TA-AA-GURK!
SHE STOPPED, SUDDENLY, AS A LOUD NOISE SHOOK THE WHOLE HOUSE! THEN, IT GOT QUIET AGAIN, REAL FAST.
SHOUTING AT ME TO STAY IN THE BASEMENT, DAD RACED UPSTAIRS ALONE...
MARTHA!
OH NO...NO NO NO...GOD NO... PLEASE GOD DON'T LET IT BE...GOD NO... DON'T LET HER BE...DEAD.
DADDY LOVED MOMMY A LOT, JUST LIKE I DID. HE USED TO CALL HER HIS "ONLIEST SUNSHINE."
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE. HE STILL CRIES OUT IN HIS SLEEP ABOUT IT, AND I CAN TELL HE THINKS ABOUT IT EVEN WHEN HE'S AWAKE.
DAD TOLD ME HOW HE ALMOST WENT CRAZY AGAIN, RIGHT THEN!

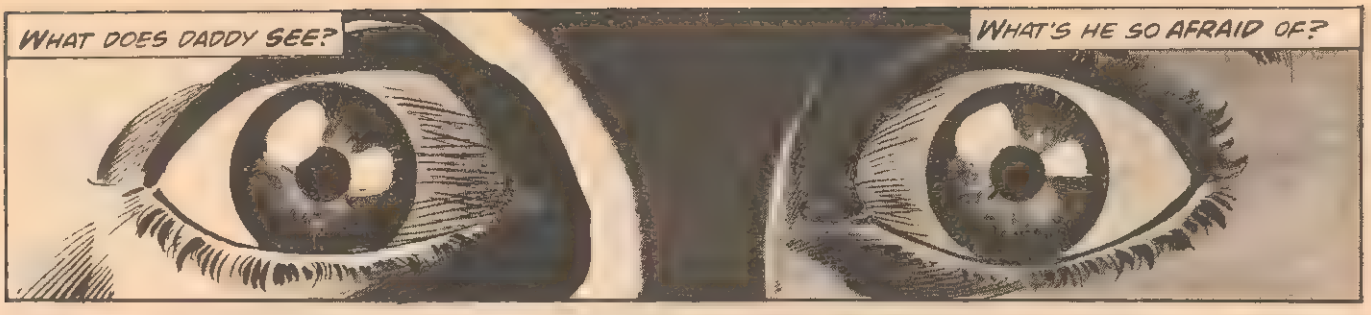

BUT HE HEARD THE MURDER MACHINE GETTING READY TO BLAST HIM, TOO... AND HE KNEW THAT IF HE DIED, IT WOULD COME AFTER ME NEXT!
ZEEP
SO HE GOT OUT OF THE WAY--JUST IN TIME!
GOT TO KEEP A CLEAR HEAD--TRY TO THINK--!
THAT--THING--SEEMS TO TAKE A WHILE TO RE-CHARGE ITSELF AFTER EACH BURST OF ENERGY! IF WE CAN JUST STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF IT--AND KEEP OUT OF THE WAY WHEN IT FIRES--MAYBE WE CAN ESCAPE!
BZZLEEEE
SISSIE--QUICK! GET IN THE CAR!
NOW!
I DON'T DARE TO DISOBEY DADDY, WHEN HE SPEAKS TO ME THAT WAY!
I ASKED HIM ABOUT MOMMY, BUT HE WOULDN'T ANSWER. HE JUST KEPT LOOKING IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR TO SEE IF THAT THING WOULD FOLLOW US!
IT DID, FOR A LITTLE WHILE. AS SOON AS WE GOT ONTO THE MAIN HIGHWAY WITH ALL THE OTHER CARS, THOUGH, IT WENT AWAY.
THEN, DADDY TOLD ME THAT I'D NEVER SEE MOMMY EVER AGAIN! HIS VOICE GOT ALL STRANGE SOUNDING...AND HE GOT THAT FUNNY LOOK ON HIS FACE...
...AND I CRIED AND CRIED.

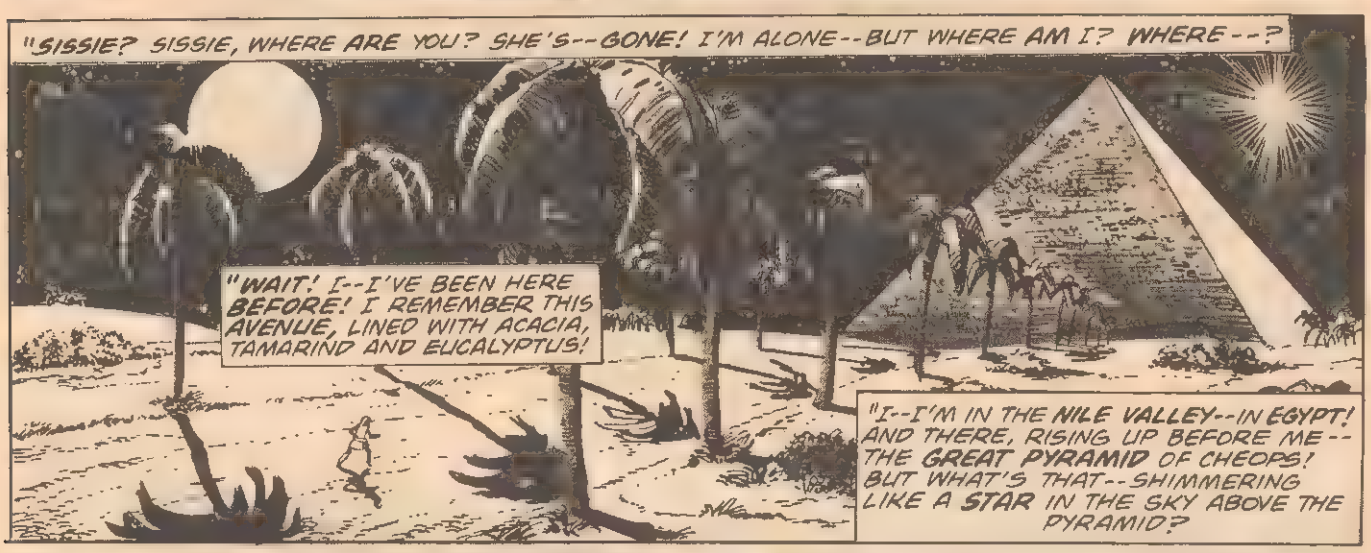
WE'VE BEEN ON THE RUN EVER SINCE, DADDY AND ME.
AND THEY'RE ALWAYS AFTER US--BUT THEY TRY NEVER TO SHOW THEMSELVES, 'SPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE NEAR ANY OTHER PEOPLE. DAD DOESN'T DARE GO TO THE POLICE, EITHER.
HE'S SURE THAT THEY'LL THINK HE'S SICK AGAIN...THAT HE HAD ANOTHER "BREAKDOWN" AND... DID THAT AWFUL THING TO MOMMY, HIMSELF.

DADDY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO'S SENDING THE MACHINES AFTER US--OR WHY!
MNMMM
NOW, SISSIE--WHILE IT'S STILL ENERGIZING--LET'S GO! WE'VE ONLY GOT A FEW SECONDS UNTIL IT DIS-CHARGES!

HE THINKS IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH SOMETHING THAT HE MUST HAVE DISCOVERED--JUST BEFORE HIS "NERVOUS BREAKDOWN."
REOWR
THE ONLY THING IS, WHEN THEY HELPED HIM AT THE MENTAL HOSPITAL TO GET RID OF THOSE SPOOKY DAYDREAMS HE ALWAYS USED TO GET, THEY MADE HIM FORGET MOST EVERYTHING.
SO HE ISN'T SURE.

THE MACHINES FRIGHTEN ME. I'M AFRAID THAT THEY'LL COME WHILE WE'RE ASLEEP, WITHOUT ANY WARNING AT ALL, AND WE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
MMMM
AT LEAST, WHILE DADDY AND ME ARE AWAKE, WE CAN WATCH OUT FOR THEM WHEN THEY ATTACK--LIKE AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
WE HAVE TO RUN AS FAST AS WE CAN--
--WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BACK--
--OR WE'LL DIE, TOO--
ZEEP!
--JUST LIKE MOMMY.
WE GO TO A HOTEL IN THE TIMES SQUARE PART OF NEW YORK CITY (WHERE DAD SAYS THERE ARE ALWAYS PLENTY OF PEOPLE AROUND) AND I ASK HIM IF THE MACHINES COME FROM OUTER SPACE.
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T THINK SO. HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN SCIENCE FICTION OR SPACEMEN BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW FOR SURE.
DADDY, WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US? WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK...
...HOME?
I DON'T KNOW, SISSIE --I JUST DON'T KNOW.
NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME...FOR US...
SUDDENLY, DAD STOPS TALKING, AND STARTS TO SWEAT AND SHIVER! THAT LOOK IS ON HIS FACE AGAIN, AND THIS TIME IT DOESN'T GO AWAY!
DADDY--WHAT'S WRONG?! TALK TO ME! PLEASE--TALK TO ME!
DADDY?
BUT HE WON'T ANSWER. ALL HE DOES IS STARE AT THE WALL--AS IF HE'S AFRAID OF IT OR SOMETHING!


WHAT DOES DADDY SEE?
WHAT'S HE SO AFRAID OF?


"SISSIE? SISSIE, WHERE ARE YOU? SHE'S--GONE! I'M ALONE--BUT WHERE AM I? WHERE--?
"WAIT! I--I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE! I REMEMBER THIS AVENUE, LINED WITH ACACIA, TAMARIND AND EUCALYPTUS!
"I--I'M IN THE NILE VALLEY--IN EGYPT! AND THERE, RISING UP BEFORE ME--THE GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS! BUT WHAT'S THAT--SHIMMERING LIKE A STAR IN THE SKY ABOVE THE PYRAMID?

"I--I SEEM TO BE FOLLOWING THE LIGHT--BUT I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MY OWN ACTIONS, I'M HELPLESS, ALMOST AS IF I'M A CAPTIVE SPECTATOR IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY!
"I AM AWED AND TRANSFIXED BY WHAT I SEE!
"UNABLE TO TURN MY GAZE AWAY, I WATCH IN STUNNED SILENCE AS, GLEAMING AND GROWING EVER MORE BRIGHT, THE STAR DESCENDS UNTIL IT HOVERS NEAR THE GREAT PYRAMID!

"SUDDENLY, WITH A BLINDING BURST OF BRILLIANCE, THE OBJECT EXPLODES INTO WHITE LIGHT THAT ILLUMES THE SKY AND SENDS ME STUMBLING TO MY KNEES IN SHOCK AND SURPRISE!
"AND FEAR--FOR NOW I CAN NO LONGER SEE!

"BUT ETCHED IN MY MIND'S EYE IS AN INCREDIBLE **IMAGE**--AND BURNED INTO MY SOUL IS AN AWFUL **AWARENESS!** THE STAR IS **NOT** A STAR--AND I AM **NOT** IN MODERN-DAY EGYPT! FOR, BATHED IN A DAZZLING GLARE **BRIGHTER** THAN THE BRIGHTEST SUNSHINE, I SAW THE GREAT PYRAMID--UNRAVAGED BY **AGE!**

"I SAW THE LAST OF THE **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD**-- STANDING AS IT MUST HAVE STOOD OVER **4,000 YEARS AGO,** WHEN IT WAS NEWLY ERECTED!

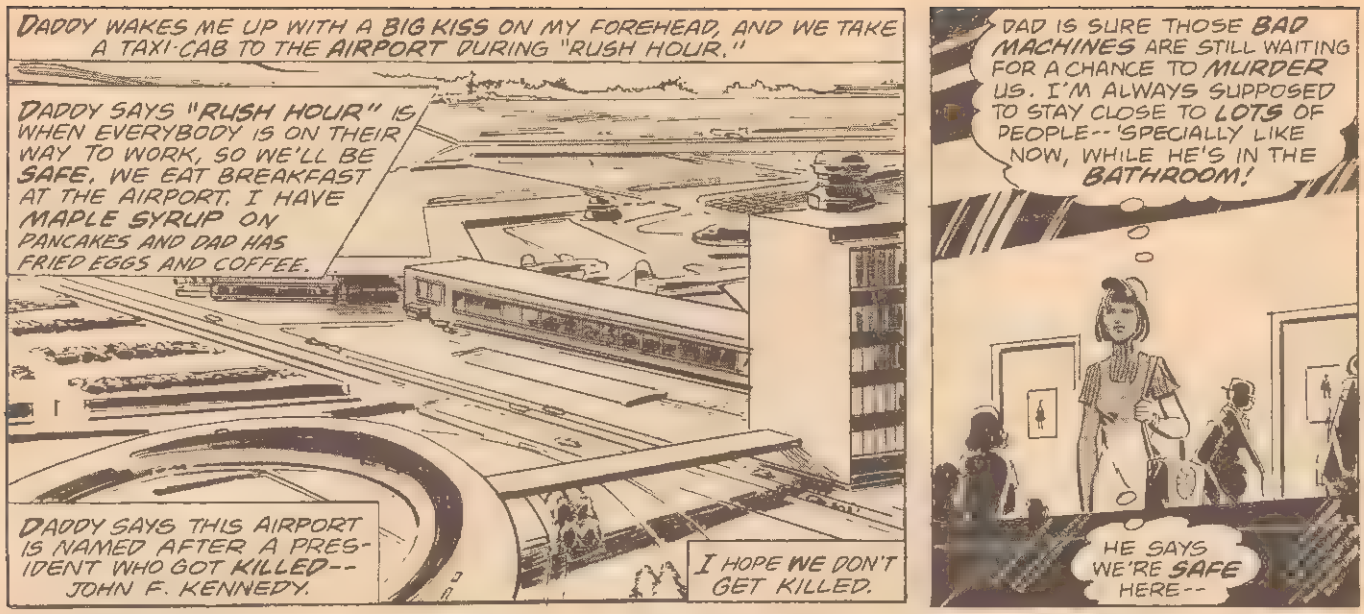
"AND I SAW THE **SPIRITS** OF ANCIENT EGYPT!

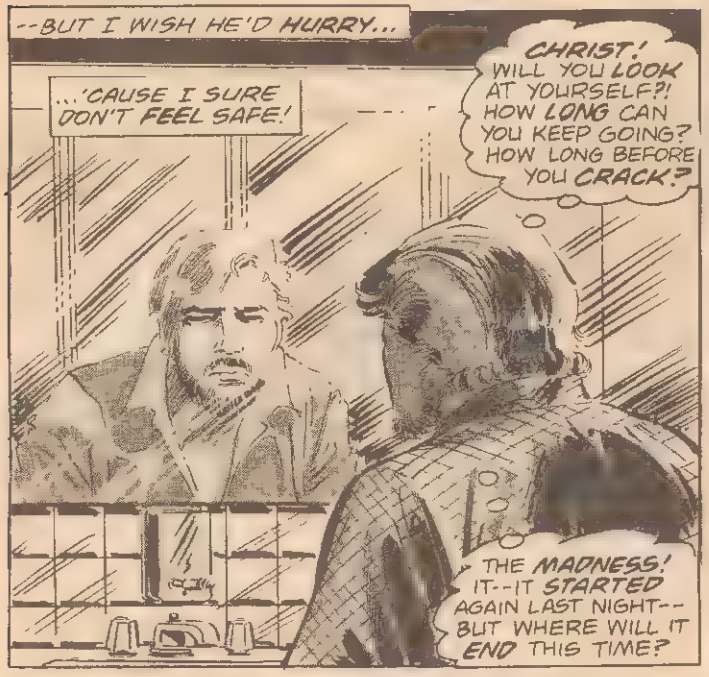
"FOR A LONG TIME, I CROUCH QUAKING WITH **UNCONTROLLABLE ANXIETY** AND LISTENING TO THE ALIEN SOUNDS OF THE **AIRSHIP**--UNTIL, AT LAST, MY **SIGHT** RETURNS! AS IF IN A **TRANCE** FROM WHICH I CANNOT AWAKEN, I AGAIN OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS... ALTHOUGH I DO NOT YET COMPREHEND THEIR **PORTENT!**

"I SEE A **SAUCER**-- NOT A **STAR** AS IT FIRST APPEARED-- SUSPENDED IN SPACE BESIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID!

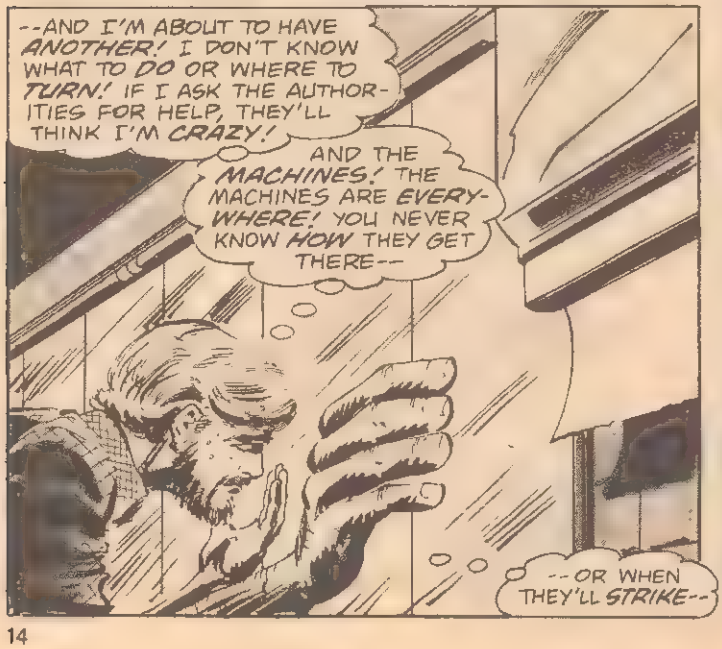
"ITS SCALE IS SIMPLY **STAGGERING!** THE PYRAMID ITSELF COVERS AN AREA THE EQUIVALENT OF SEVEN BIG **CITY BLOCKS** AND TOWERS **40 STOREYS** OVER THE SURROUNDING PLATEAU. THE SINGLE STRUCTURE IS SAID TO CONTAIN **MORE STONE** THAN ALL THE CATHEDRALS, CHAPELS AND CHURCHES BUILT IN ENGLAND SINCE THE TIME OF CHRIST! AND YET, IT DOES **NOT** SIGNIFICANTLY DWARF THE **SAUCER** FLOATING ALONGSIDE IT!

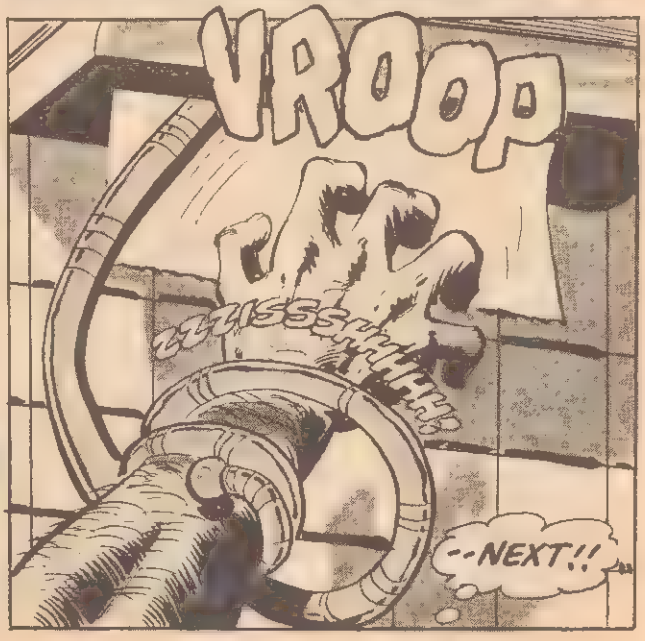
"AS I LOOK ON, THE FLYING OBJECT PROTRUDES WHAT APPEARS TO BE EITHER A GUN MUZZLE OR A SCOPE OF SOME KIND, WHICH PRESENTLY EMITS A RUBY RAY!
"THE RAY SWEEPS BACK AND FORTH OVER THE SURFACE OF THE PYRAMID, SEEKING A PRECISE SPOT UPON WHICH IT SOON FOCUSES!
"THEN, IT DISCHARGES A BLAST THAT SEEMS DIRECTED AT PENETRATING SOME TYPE OF BARRIER--FOLLOWING WHICH I AM PRIVILEGED TO A TREMENDOUS DISPLAY OF PYROTECHNICS!
"AS IF FREED FROM CONSIDERABLE CONSTRAINT, A CORRUSCATING BEAM OF ENERGY BURSTS FORTH UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE FROM THE PYRAMID, AND IS ABSORBED BY THE STRANGE HOVERING SAUCER!
"WHAT I AM WITNESSING FILLS ME WITH WONDER, EVEN AS IT INSTILLS ME WITH UNREASONING FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN!
"I STAND ROOTED TO THE SPOT--
"--SHAKING IN PHYSICAL REACTION TO WHAT I HAVE YET TO ACCEPT OR COMPREHEND OR ASSIMILATE MENTALLY!
"MY MIND ROILS WITH AN UNBEARABLE BURDEN OF KNOWLEDGE--
"--AND WITH EVEN WORSE APPREHENSION OF ALL THAT I DON'T KNOW--OF ALL THE IMPLICATIONS, THE ALIEN MYSTERIES, THE AWFUL--"
DADDY! PLEASE DON'T GET SICK AGAIN! PLEASE, DADDY...
...TALK TO ME...
...PLEASE...
...IT'S OKAY, SISSIE...
...DADDY IS OKAY NOW, DEAR. IT WAS JUST A...A BAD DREAM...AND DADDY IS REAL, REAL SORRY IF HE SCARED YOU, HONEY.
DADDY HOLDS ME CLOSE, AND I HUG HIM TIGHT, AND I'M SO, SO SLEEPY...

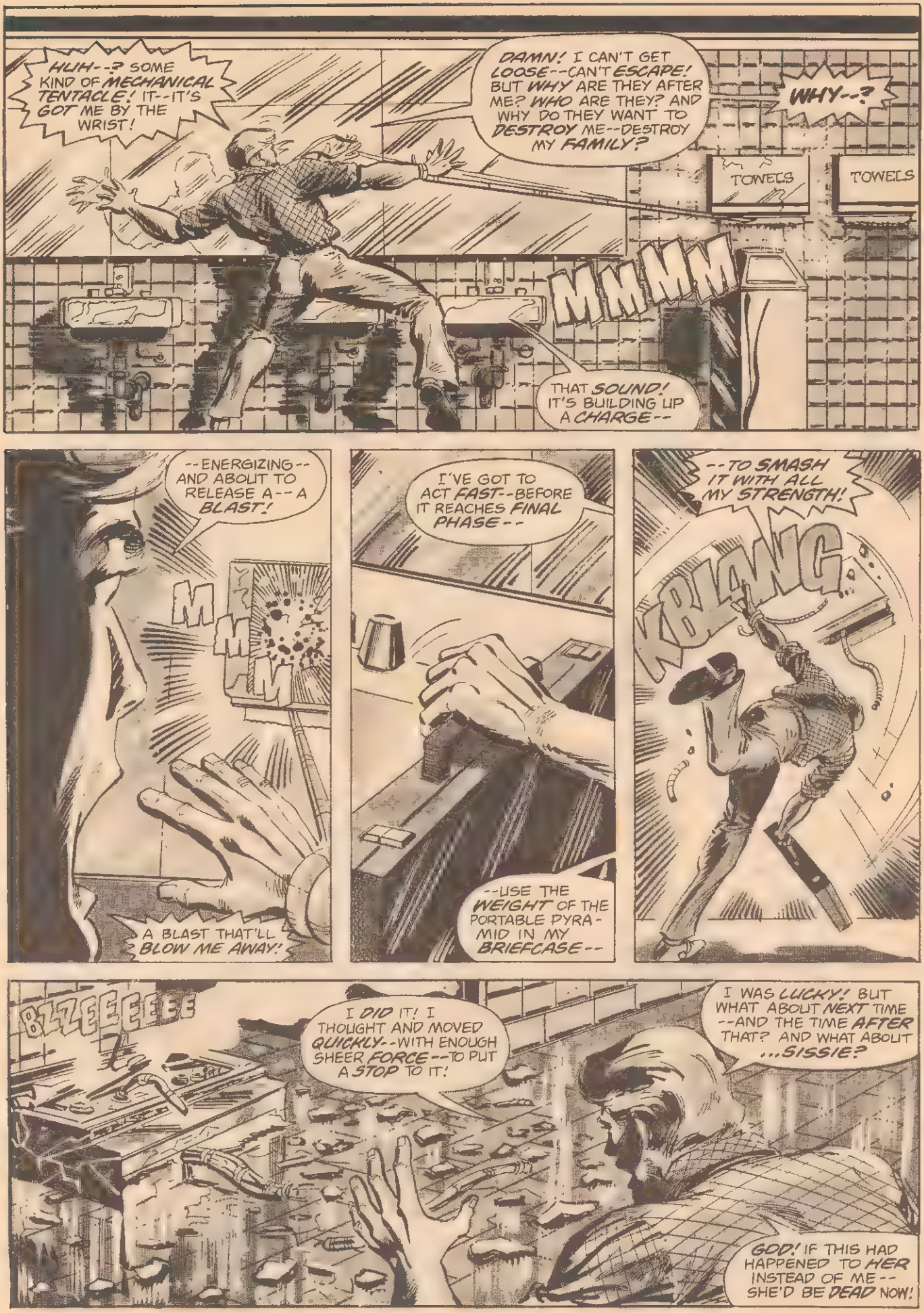

DADDY WAKES ME UP WITH A BIG KISS ON MY FOREHEAD, AND WE TAKE A TAXI-CAB TO THE AIRPORT DURING "RUSH HOUR."
DADDY SAYS "RUSH HOUR" IS WHEN EVERYBODY IS ON THEIR WAY TO WORK, SO WE'LL BE SAFE. WE EAT BREAKFAST AT THE AIRPORT. I HAVE MAPLE SYRUP ON PANCAKES AND DAD HAS FRIED EGGS AND COFFEE.
DADDY SAYS THIS AIRPORT IS NAMED AFTER A PRESIDENT WHO GOT KILLED-- JOHN F. KENNEDY.
I HOPE WE DON'T GET KILLED.
DAD IS SURE THOSE BAD MACHINES ARE STILL WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO MURDER US. I'M ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO STAY CLOSE TO LOTS OF PEOPLE-- 'SPECIALLY LIKE NOW, WHILE HE'S IN THE BATHROOM!
HE SAYS WE'RE SAFE HERE--


--BUT I WISH HE'D HURRY...
...'CAUSE I SURE DON'T FEEL SAFE!
CHRIST! WILL YOU LOOK AT YOURSELF?! HOW LONG CAN YOU KEEP GOING? HOW LONG BEFORE YOU CRACK?
THE MADNESS! IT--IT STARTED AGAIN LAST NIGHT-- BUT WHERE WILL IT END THIS TIME?

MY WIFE IS... DEAD! MY DAUGHTER AND I ARE BEING STALKED BY ASSASSINS--AND I DON'T KNOW WHY! I'VE ALREADY HAD ONE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN--


--AND I'M ABOUT TO HAVE ANOTHER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR WHERE TO TURN! IF I ASK THE AUTHORITIES FOR HELP, THEY'LL THINK I'M CRAZY!
AND THE MACHINES! THE MACHINES ARE EVERYWHERE! YOU NEVER KNOW HOW THEY GET THERE--
--OR WHEN THEY'LL STRIKE--


VROOP
--NEXT!!


HUH--? SOME KIND OF MECHANICAL TENTACLE! IT--IT'S GOT ME BY THE WRIST!
DAMN! I CAN'T GET LOOSE--CAN'T ESCAPE! BUT WHY ARE THEY AFTER ME? WHO ARE THEY? AND WHY DO THEY WANT TO DESTROY ME--DESTROY MY FAMILY?
WHY--?
TOWELS
TOWELS
MMMM
THAT SOUND! IT'S BUILDING UP A CHARGE--
--ENERGIZING-- AND ABOUT TO RELEASE A-- A BLAST!
MMMM
A BLAST THAT'LL BLOW ME AWAY!
I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST--BEFORE IT REACHES FINAL PHASE--
--USE THE WEIGHT OF THE PORTABLE PYRAMID IN MY BRIEFCASE--
--TO SMASH IT WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
KBLANG
BZZEEEEEE
I DID IT! I THOUGHT AND MOVED QUICKLY--WITH ENOUGH SHEER FORCE--TO PUT A STOP TO IT!
I WAS LUCKY! BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME --AND THE TIME AFTER THAT? AND WHAT ABOUT ...SISSIE?
GOD! IF THIS HAD HAPPENED TO HER INSTEAD OF ME-- SHE'D BE DEAD NOW!

I CAN'T LET MYSELF DWELL ON THAT THOUGHT--OR I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN MY SANITY!
BUT FINALLY, AT LEAST, I HAVE A MATERIAL CLUE! MAYBE, BY EXAMINING IT, I CAN FIND OUT WHO--
FZZAP
DAMN IT! GONE! THE THING SELF-DESTRUCTED, AND I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO'S CHASING US--OR WHY! GOD HELP ME, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
DADDY, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK AWFUL! I HEARD NOISES INSIDE, AND GOT REAL SCARED!
I WAS ABOUT TO CALL FOR HELP!
I-I'M ALL RIGHT, SISSIE. I SURVIVED... ANOTHER... ATTACK!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! WE'RE ALREADY RUNNING LATE, AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE OUR ASSASSINS ANOTHER CHANCE TO STRIKE AT US BEFORE WE CAN GET AWAY!
STILL, SOMETHING CROSSED MY MIND IN THERE, DURING THE DANGER! SISSIE, DO YOU REMEMBER WERNER STRAUSS?
DR. STRAUSS? YES, DAD, I REMEMBER. HE USED TO VISIT YOU A LOT BEFORE YOU... BEFORE YOU...
DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY IT, SISSIE...
...BEFORE I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL!
WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT DR. STRAUSS ON THE PLANE. IT SEEMED TO HELP DAD GET SOME OF HIS MEMORY BACK, AND AFTER AWHILE HE GOT REAL QUIET.
I DON'T WANT TO WORRY SISSIE... LORD KNOWS, SHE'S BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH!
BUT I RECALL MORE THAN JUST WERNER STRAUSS' NAME! I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE--A TITLE! "PROJECT E.T." SOMEHOW, I ASSOCIATE IT WITH... THE MURDER MACHINES!
BUT IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A VAGUE... FEELING, THE PSYCHIATRISTS AT WALTER REED REALLY WENT OVER ME! THEY DID A GOOD JOB... TOO GOOD!
SO MUCH SO THAT I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER WHO TOM CHOJNACKI REALLY WAS... WHAT I BELIEVED IN... WHAT EVENTS SHAPED ME.
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THAT PERIOD OF MY LIFE -- AND, RIGHT NOW, THAT LOST MEMORY HOLDS A KEY THAT COULD SAVE OUR LIVES!
DADDY IS SO SERIOUS THAT I CAN TELL HE'S THINKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE.
I'VE GOT TO BE STRONG FOR DADDY. HE NEEDS ME, NOW THAT... NOW THAT MOMMY'S... DEAD.
THE REAL HELL OF IT IS THAT SISSIE'S ALSO CAUGHT UP IN THIS! I DON'T DARE LEAVE HER BEHIND. THEY KILLED MY WIFE--AND THEY'LL KILL MY DAUGHTER, TOO, IF I GIVE THEM THE CHANCE!
BUT HOW CAN I HOPE TO KEEP PROTECTING HER?

DR. STRAUSS HAD SOME KIND OF **CONTROVERSIAL THEORY** THAT WAS QUASHED BY HIS COLLEAGUES!

WHAT **WAS** IT?

I THINK IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH...

...**MEMORY?** OH **NO!** IT--IT'S HAPPENING **AGAIN!**

"**I-I'M HAVING A SEIZURE**...GOING INTO A DREAM...A LIVING NIGHTMARE! BUT **IS** THIS JUST A DREAM?

"AM I RETREATING FROM REALITY INTO **MADNESS**--

"--OR IS THIS ALL AS **REAL** AS IT SEEMS? I FEEL SO...**HELPLESS!**

ACH! <SO THE BRITISHERS THOUGHT TO SLIP THROUGH **UNSEEN!**>

"I'M A PRISONER IN **ANOTHER MAN'S** BODY, JUST AS I WAS DURING THAT NERVE-SHATTERING EXPERIENCE IN EARLY **EGYPT!**

<MY **STAFFEL** WILL GIVE THEM A SURPRISE WELCOME TO **HELL!**>

"I CAN HEAR MYSELF **SPEAK**--

"--BUT THE WORDS ARE **GERMAN!** I'M A--A **WORLD WAR I** PILOT--IN THE MIDST OF A **DOGFIGHT!** YET IT'S ALL SO **VIVID!** IT SEEMS SO REAL--I'VE EVEN GOT A **HOLLOW FEELING** IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH!

"WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH ME? FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, WHAT'S **GOING ON?** WHAT IF I'M **INSANE**, AFTER ALL? WHAT IF I'VE IMAGINED **EVERYTHING** THAT'S HAPPENED TO SISSIE AND ME... AND **MARTHA?**

"I'VE GOT TO GET A **GRIP** ON MYSELF! I'VE GOT TO--**THINK.** THIS **VISION**...AND THE OTHERS, THE ONES I HAD BEFORE MY BREAKDOWN...THERE MUST BE A **REASON!**

<THE ENGLISH MUST **NOT** SURVIVE TO REACH METZ--MUST **NOT** BOMB OUR TROOPS THERE!>

"THERE MUST BE A **PATTERN!**

"I'VE GOT TO **RECOGNIZE** IT--BEFORE IT'S TOO **LATE!**

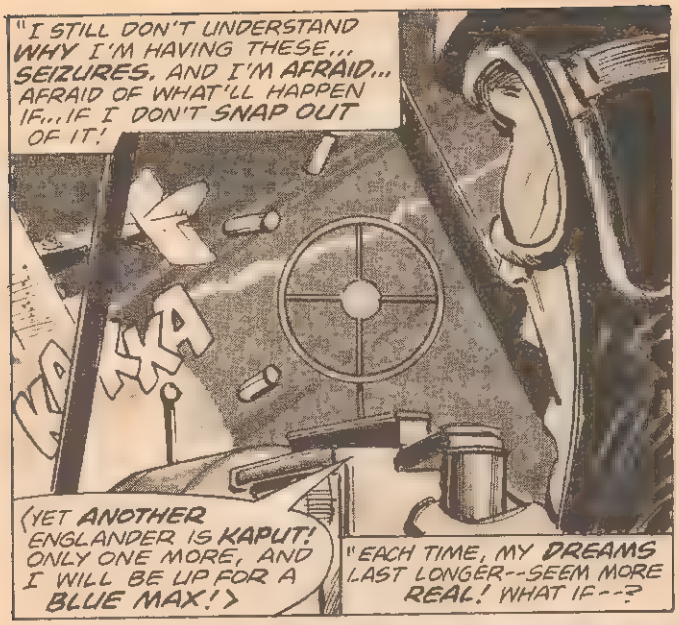
<DIE FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE **FATHERLAND!**>

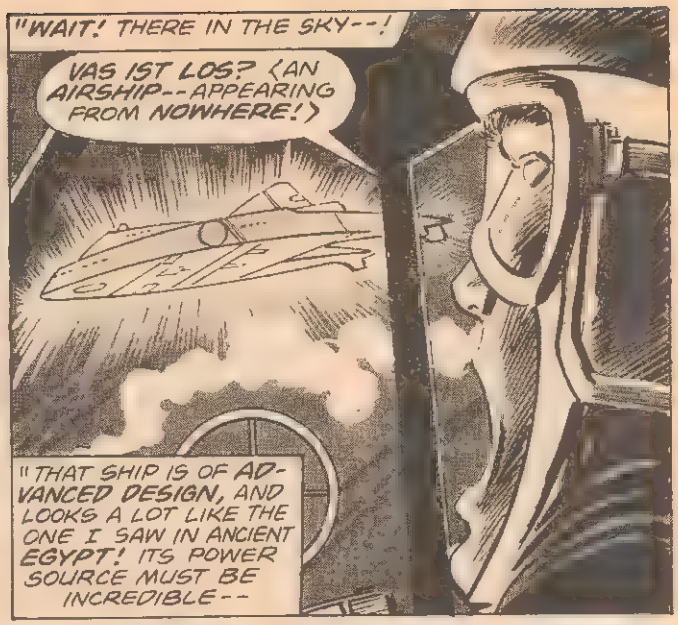
BRAK-A-

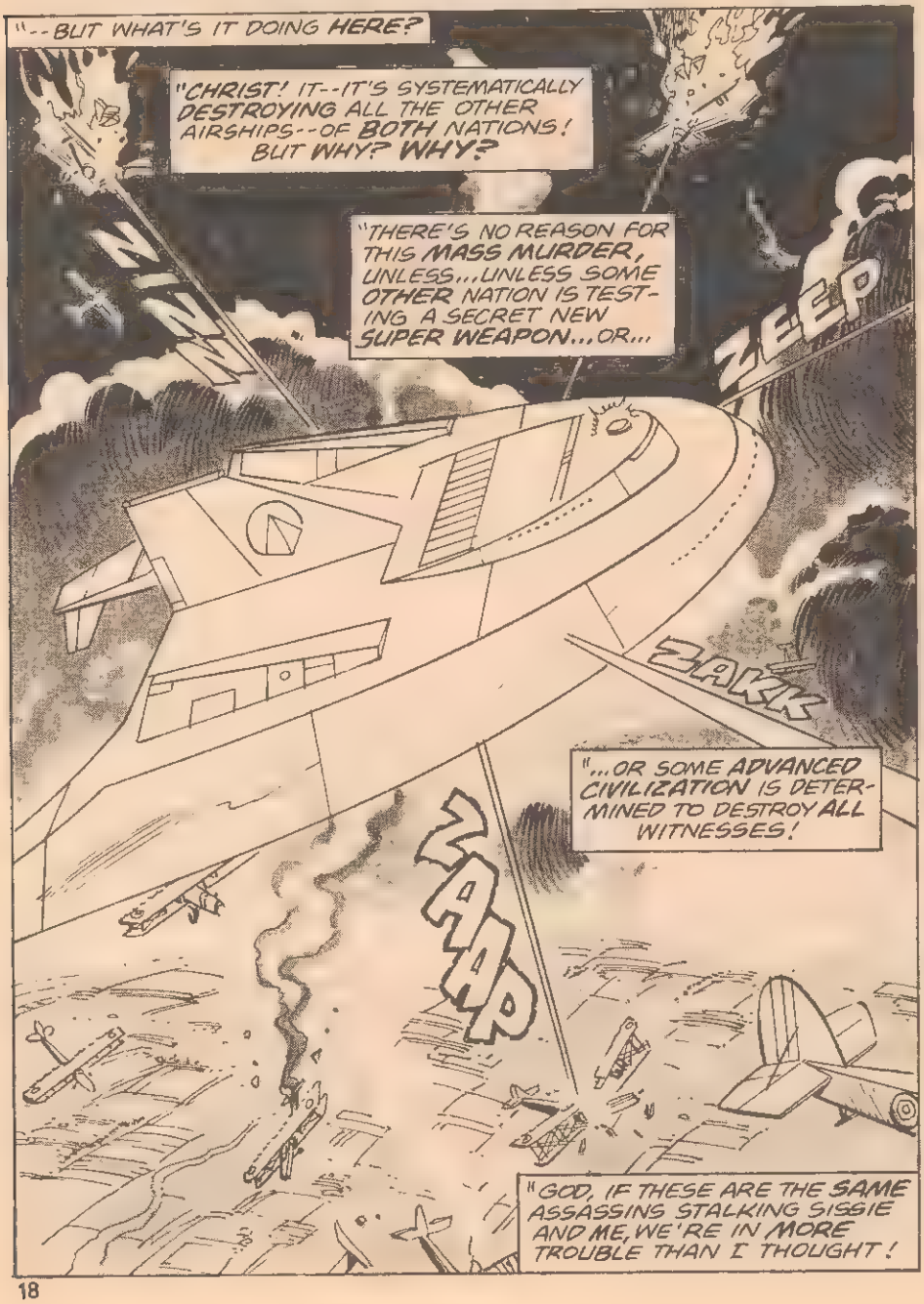
BRAKKA

"AT LEAST HE **KNOWS** WHO HIS ENEMY IS--I WISH I KNEW **MINE!**

"I WISH I KNEW WHO TO **RETALIATE** AGAINST... WISH I WAS SURE OF WHETHER MY ENEMIES REALLY **EXIST**--OR OF WHETHER THEY EXIST ONLY **INSIDE** MY TORTURED MIND!"


"I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M HAVING THESE... SEIZURES. AND I'M AFRAID... AFRAID OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF... IF I DON'T SNAP OUT OF IT!
KA-KA
(YET ANOTHER ENGLANDER IS KAPUT! ONLY ONE MORE, AND I WILL BE UP FOR A BLUE MAX!)
"EACH TIME, MY DREAMS LAST LONGER--SEEM MORE REAL! WHAT IF--?


"WAIT! THERE IN THE SKY--!
VAS IST LOS? (AN AIRSHIP--APPEARING FROM NOWHERE!)
"THAT SHIP IS OF ADVANCED DESIGN, AND LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE ONE I SAW IN ANCIENT EGYPT! ITS POWER SOURCE MUST BE INCREDIBLE--


"--BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
"CHRIST! IT--IT'S SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING ALL THE OTHER AIRSHIPS--OF BOTH NATIONS! BUT WHY? WHY?
"THERE'S NO REASON FOR THIS MASS MURDER, UNLESS... UNLESS SOME OTHER NATION IS TESTING A SECRET NEW SUPER WEAPON... OR...
ZEEP
ZAKK
"... OR SOME ADVANCED CIVILIZATION IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY ALL WITNESSES!
ZAAP
"GOD, IF THESE ARE THE SAME ASSASSINS STALKING SISSIE AND ME, WE'RE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT!

"AND NOW--DAMN!--THIS AEROPLANE'S BEEN BLASTED! IT'S AFLAME--GOING INTO A DIVE--AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
MEIN GOTT!
(DEATH STRIKES TODAY FROM THE SKIES--TO SEND US ALL SCREAMING TO HELL!)
"WILL I--WILL I DIE, TOO, WHEN WE CRASH?

DADDY IS SHAKING SO BAD HE SCARES THE OTHER PASSENGERS!

WHAT'S WRONG? IS HE--

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MISTER! HE'S JUST--AIRSICK, I THINK.

I'M HERE, DADDY--I'M HERE! PLEASE GET WELL!

HE'S COMING BACK... I CAN TELL, SO I SEND THE STEWARDESS AWAY. BUT THIS ATTACK WAS THE WORST YET!

I'M SO FRIGHTENED--FOR HIM--AND FOR ME!

DADDY, WE'RE ALMOST THERE! ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH, SIS, I--I'M ALIVE--AND I'LL BE--JUST FINE IN A MOMENT!

DAD, WE WERE IN SUCH A HURRY THAT YOU NEVER TOLD ME--

WHY WE'RE FLYING TO BORDEAUX? GIVE ME A SECOND TO GET MY WITS TOGETHER, SIS, AND I'LL TELL YOU.

BEFORE DADDY GETS A CHANCE, WE'RE ALREADY LANDING AT THE AIRPORT. I SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANOTHER "NERVOUS BREAKDOWN"...

I KNOW HE REALLY WANTS TO GET HIS MEMORY BACK, BUT I'M WORRIED THAT HE'LL GET SICK IN THE HEAD AGAIN, IF HE DOES!

WE GO STRAIGHT FROM THE AIRPORT TO A BUS STATION AND, ALL THE WHILE, DADDY TALKS TO ME...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SIS, WE FLED WITHOUT ANY DESTINATION. I BOOKED THE FLIGHT TO FRANCE BECAUSE IT WAS LEAVING NEXT! BUT I'VE BEEN DOING SOME SERIOUS THINKING SINCE THEN...

...AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA THE PYRAMIDS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO US!

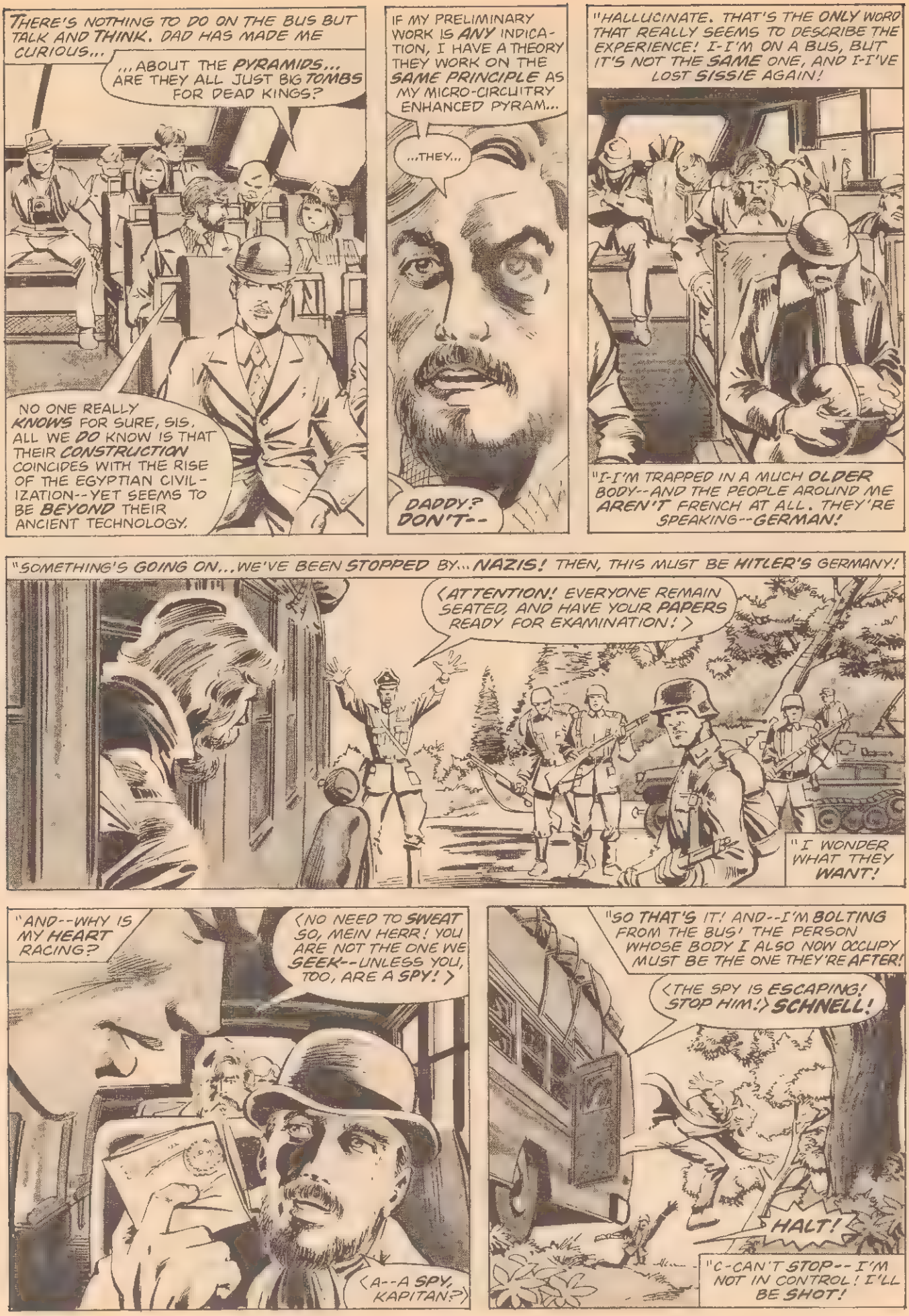
TELL ME MORE, DADDY.

WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH MORE, SISSIE. BUT AFTER I WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, ALMOST THE FIRST THING I DID WAS START WORK ON THE PORTABLE PYRAMID...

...AND IN MY... MY DAYDREAMS... I SAW THE GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS, AND I REMEMBERED THE NILE VALLEY... EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE! AT LEAST, NOT IN THIS LIFE!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING THERE. PERHAPS SIGHT OF THE PYRAMIDS WILL TRIGGER SOME LOST KEY IN MY MEMORY!

THIS BUS WILL TAKE US TO MARSEILLES... AND FROM THERE WE'LL CATCH THE NEXT CRUISE TO EGYPT.


THERE'S NOTHING TO DO ON THE BUS BUT TALK AND THINK. DAD HAS MADE ME CURIOUS...
...ABOUT THE PYRAMIDS... ARE THEY ALL JUST BIG TOMBS FOR DEAD KINGS?
NO ONE REALLY KNOWS FOR SURE, SIS. ALL WE DO KNOW IS THAT THEIR CONSTRUCTION COINCIDES WITH THE RISE OF THE EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION--YET SEEMS TO BE BEYOND THEIR ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY.
IF MY PRELIMINARY WORK IS ANY INDICATION, I HAVE A THEORY THEY WORK ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS MY MICRO-CIRCUITRY ENHANCED PYRAM...
...THEY...
DADDY? DON'T--
"HALLUCINATE. THAT'S THE ONLY WORD THAT REALLY SEEMS TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE! I-I'M ON A BUS, BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME ONE, AND I-I'VE LOST SISSIE AGAIN!
"I-I'M TRAPPED IN A MUCH OLDER BODY--AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME AREN'T FRENCH AT ALL. THEY'RE SPEAKING--GERMAN!
"SOMETHING'S GOING ON...WE'VE BEEN STOPPED BY...NAZIS! THEN, THIS MUST BE HITLER'S GERMANY!
<ATTENTION! EVERYONE REMAIN SEATED, AND HAVE YOUR PAPERS READY FOR EXAMINATION!>
"I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT!
"AND--WHY IS MY HEART RACING?
<NO NEED TO SWEAT SO, MEIN HERR! YOU ARE NOT THE ONE WE SEEK--UNLESS YOU, TOO, ARE A SPY!>
<A--A SPY, KAPITAN?>
"SO THAT'S IT! AND--I'M BOLTING FROM THE BUS! THE PERSON WHOSE BODY I ALSO NOW OCCUPY MUST BE THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER!
<THE SPY IS ESCAPING! STOP HIM!> SCHNELL!
HALT!
"C-CAN'T STOP-- I'M NOT IN CONTROL! I'LL BE SHOT!

"APPARENTLY, THE GUY IS SOME KIND OF **SPY!** I CAN FEEL THE SHEER RAW EMOTION--THE **TERROR** WELLING UP WITHIN! BUT **WHY?** WHY DO I KEEP HAVING THESE **HALLUCINATIONS?**

"WAIT! HE'S **SAYING** SOMETHING TO HIMSELF...

HIMMEL! (THEY MUST HAVE LEARNED... I TALKED TO...**KAZANTZEV!**)

"KAZANTZEV? I'VE HEARD THAT **NAME** BEFORE--BUT **WHERE?**

"I'VE **GOT** IT! HE'S THE GERMAN MUNITIONS GENIUS WHO ONCE THEORIZED THAT THERE ARE **EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS** ACTUALLY LIVING HERE ON EARTH...

"**HOLD IT!** THAT **LIGHT**--SUDDENLY APPEARING IN THE **SKY!**

"WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT **BEFORE?**

"OF COURSE--**EGYPT!** IT LOOKS LIKE THAT **STAR** I SAW FLASHING OUT OF THE NIGHT SKY TO BECOME AN **AIRSHIP!**

LIEBER GOTT!

"BUT THIS TIME IT'S APPEARING IN **BROAD DAYLIGHT.** EVEN SO, THE LIGHT COMING FROM IT IS ALMOST **BLINDING!**

"THE SHIP IS **LANDING**--AND THE HATCHES ARE **OPENING!** AND COMING OUT ARE --

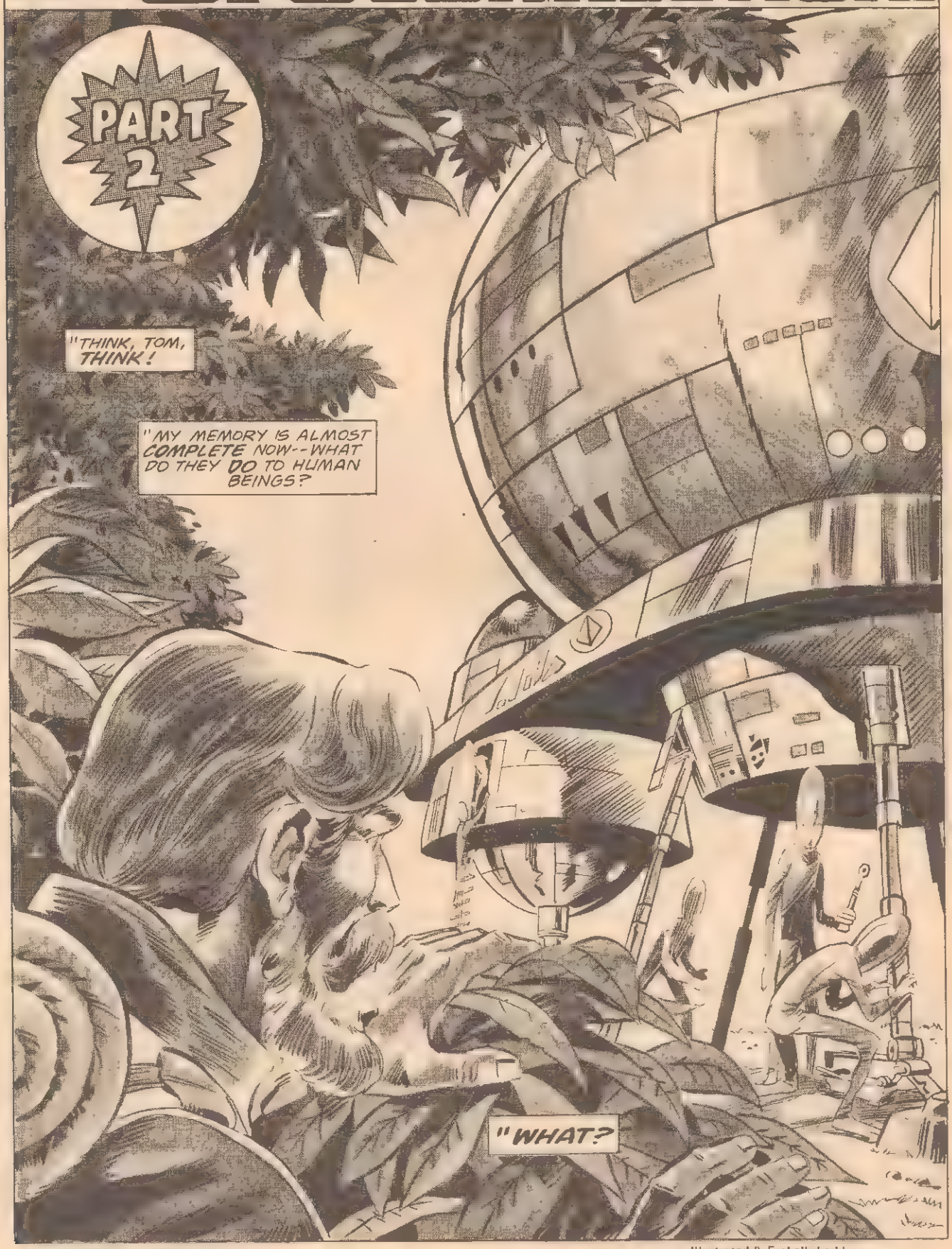
"--ALIENS!

"IT'S ALL COMING **BACK** TO ME NOW! I-I'VE SEEN THEM **BEFORE!** BUT WHY DO I **FEAR** AND DESPISE THEM SO? WAS IT THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THEY **DO** TO MEN THAT DROVE ME--**MAD?**

END OF PART 1

(continued on page 41)

THE UFO CONNECTION!



Conceived, written & edited by
DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT

Illustrated & Embellished by
HERB TRIMPE and PABLO MARCOS

"NO GOOD--IT'S JUST NOT THERE! BUT I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE--SOMETHING WERNER AND I DISCUSSED: DR. STRAUSS' THEORY!

"HE SAID HE HAD EVIDENCE THAT SOME PEOPLE POSSESS AN ANCESTRAL MEMORY OF SORTS...

"...AND HE FELT THAT I WAS ONE OF THEM! I WAS CONVINCED MY SPELLS COULD JUST AS EASILY BE ATTRIBUTED TO REINCARNATION--OR ANY OF A HALF-DOZEN OTHER UNLIKELY HYPOTHESES!

"BUT MAYBE HE WAS RIGHT. AND NOW I THINK I KNOW WHY THE PYRAMIDS ARE IMPORTANT! THEIR SYMBOL APPEARS ON THIS SHIP--JUST AS IT APPEARED ON THAT ONE IN ANCIENT EGYPT! OBVIOUSLY, THE PYRAMIDS' PECULIAR POWER IS THE KEY.

"WHAT IF THE EGYPTIAN THROUGH WHOSE EYES I SAW WAS AN ANCESTOR OF MINE--AND THE ACCUMULATED ENERGY UNLEASHED FROM THE GREAT PYRAMID THAT NIGHT IMPRINTED THAT MEMORY FOREVER INTO HIS GENES? WHO KNOWS--

"DAMN! I HOPE THEY DIDN'T HEAR THAT!

"BUT--THEY DID! AND I-I CAN'T RUN! MY HOST-BODY IS FROZEN TO THE SPOT!

"RUN, YOU FOOL, RUN!

"WE'LL BOTH BE KILLED!

"THAT ALIEN IS ABOUT TO DESTROY US--

"--NOW!

"I-I FEEL NAUSEOUS!

"HEAD HURTS!

BZEEP!

"PAIN!

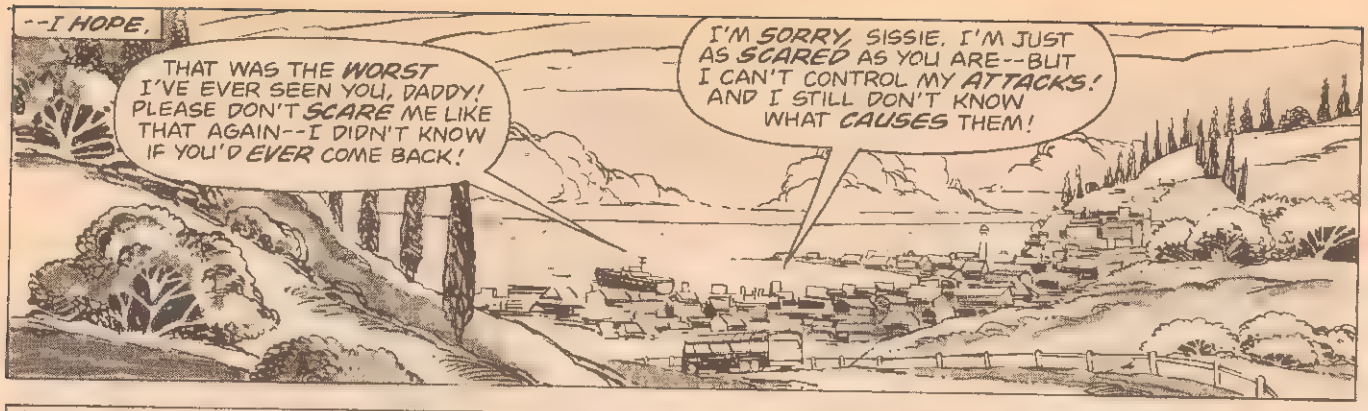
"AM I--AM I DYING--OR AM I GOING BACK TO--"

SISSIE! ARE--ARE YOU THERE?

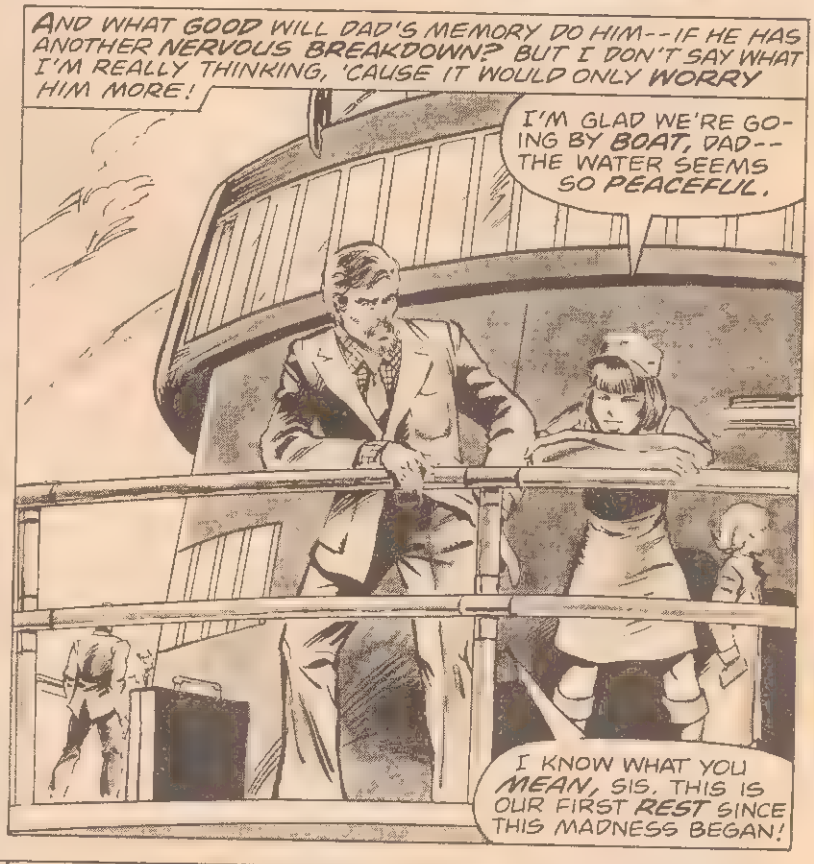
I'M HERE, DADDY--I'M HERE! IT'S ALL BEEN A BAD DREAM!

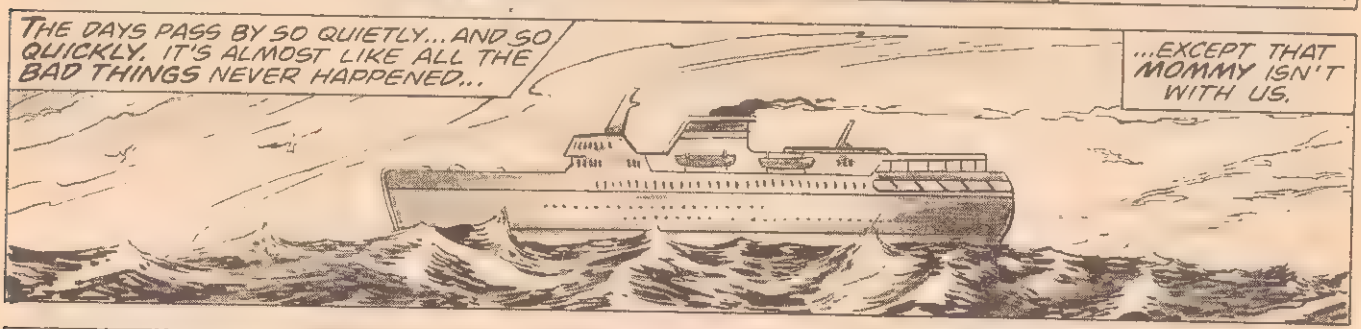
WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE GIRL? IS HE HAVING A HEART ATTACK?

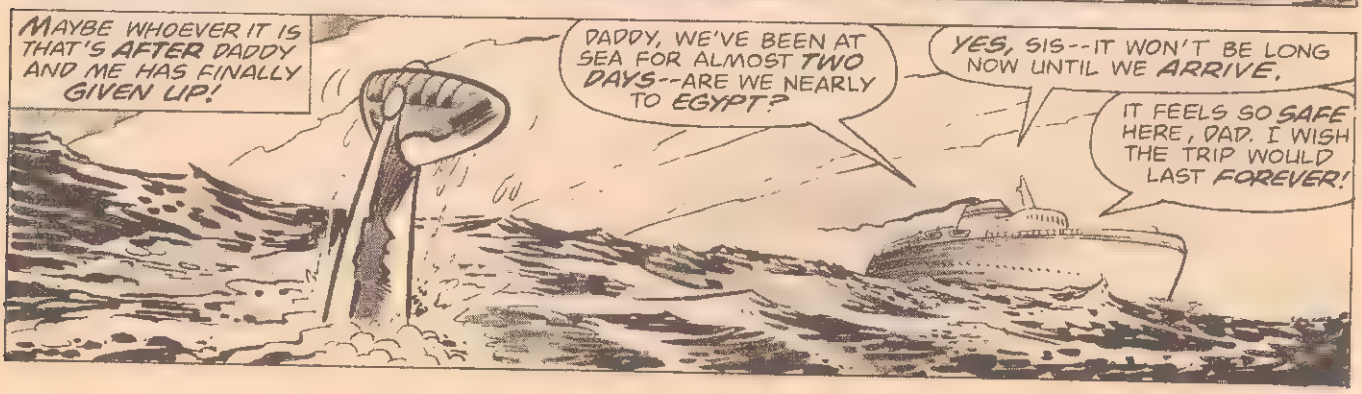
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, MISTER--


--I HOPE.
THAT WAS THE WORST I'VE EVER SEEN YOU, DADDY! PLEASE DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN--I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'D EVER COME BACK!
I'M SORRY, SISSIE. I'M JUST AS SCARED AS YOU ARE--BUT I CAN'T CONTROL MY ATTACKS! AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSES THEM!

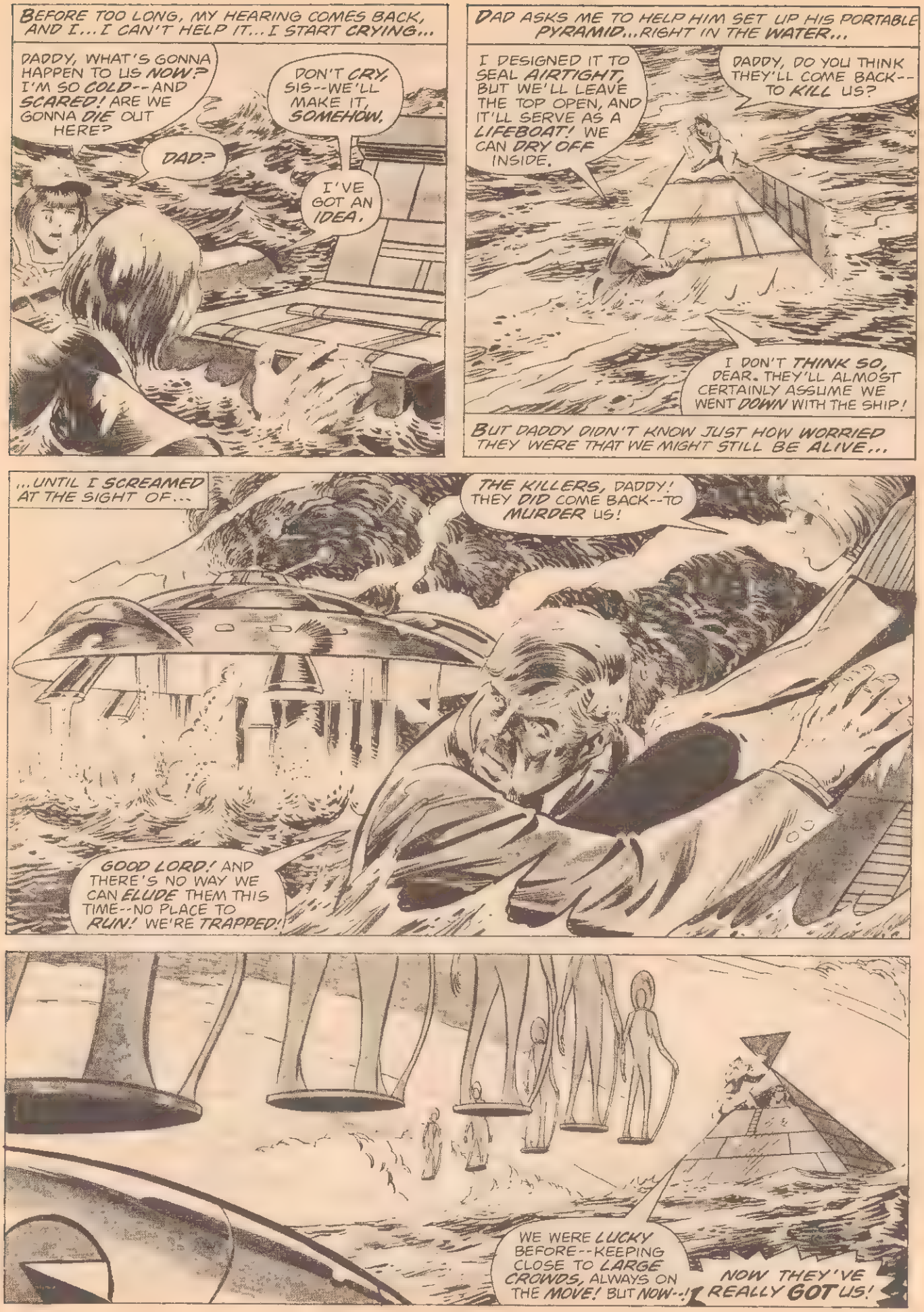
WE GET INTO THE CITY WHILE IT'S STILL DAYTIME, AND DADDY MAKES SURE WE GET TO THE DOCK RIGHT AWAY.
HE KEEPS TALKING...
ALL I KNOW IS THAT, EACH TIME I HALLUCINATE, I GET BACK MORE OF MY MEMORY!
DADDY DOESN'T SAY IT, BUT I KNOW EACH TIME IS WORSE THAN THE LAST.

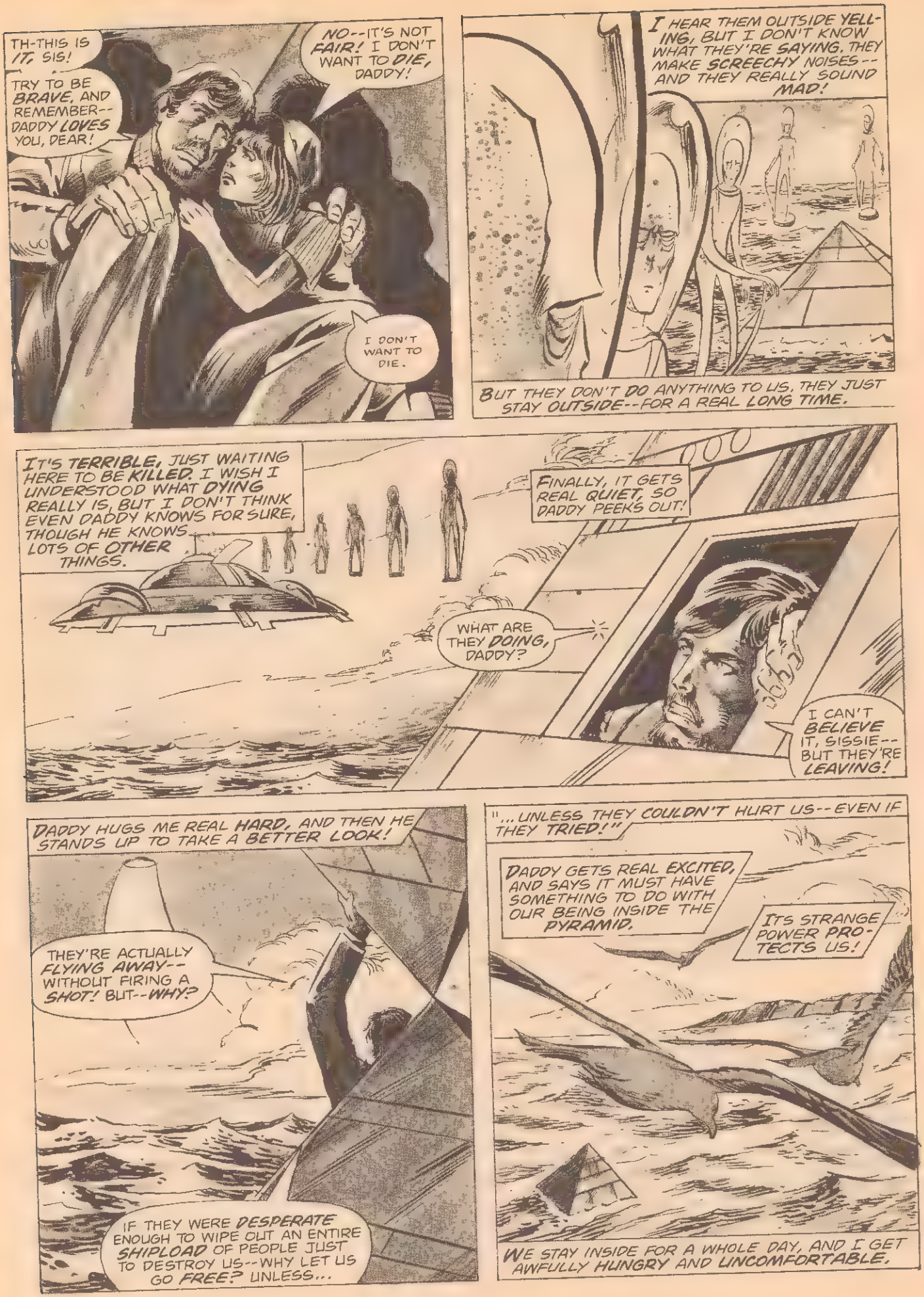

AND WHAT GOOD WILL DAD'S MEMORY DO HIM--IF HE HAS ANOTHER NERVOUS BREAKDOWN? BUT I DON'T SAY WHAT I'M REALLY THINKING, 'CAUSE IT WOULD ONLY WORRY HIM MORE!
I'M GLAD WE'RE GOING BY BOAT, DAD--THE WATER SEEMS SO PEACEFUL.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, SIS. THIS IS OUR FIRST REST SINCE THIS MADNESS BEGAN!

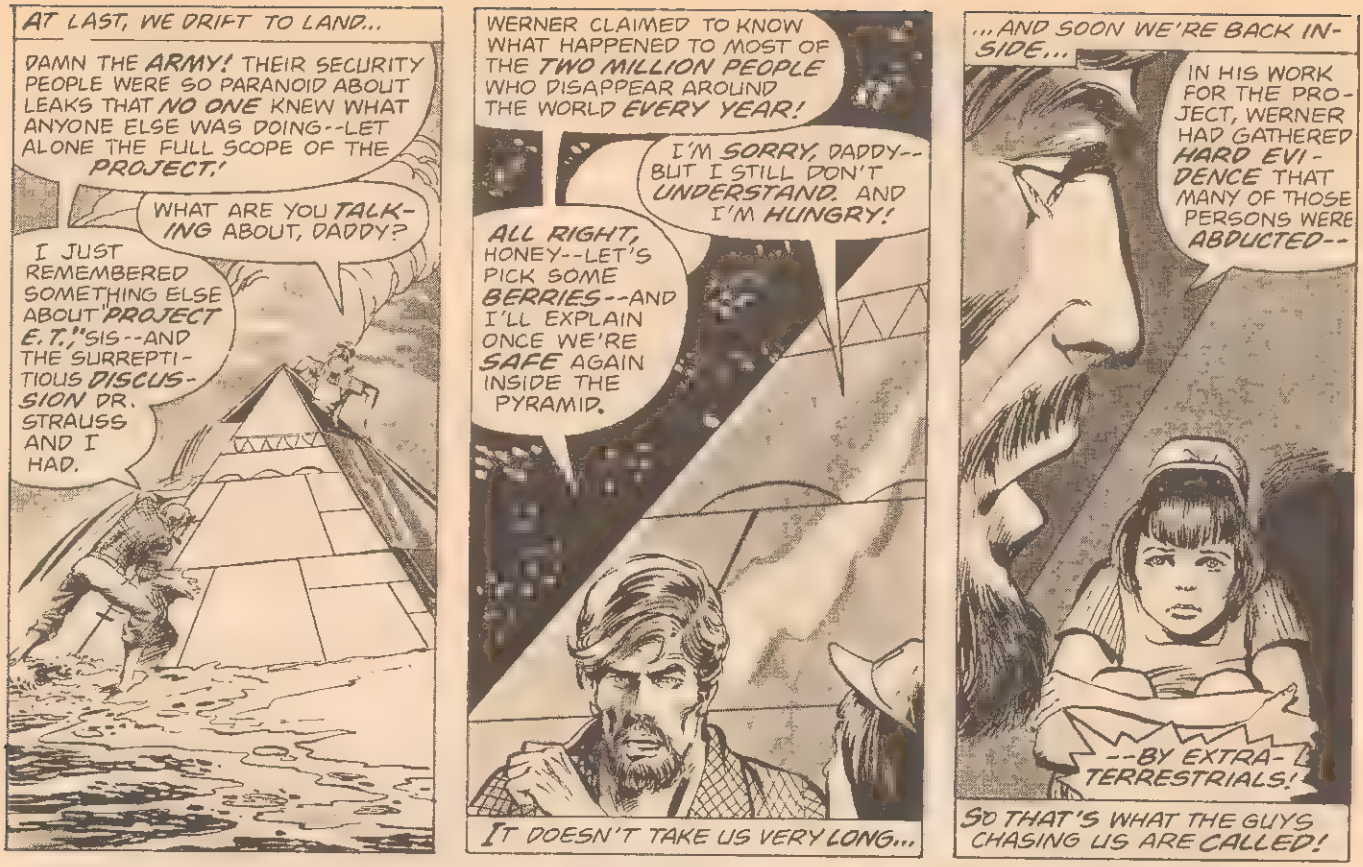

THE DAYS PASS BY SO QUIETLY... AND SO QUICKLY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE ALL THE BAD THINGS NEVER HAPPENED...
...EXCEPT THAT MOMMY ISN'T WITH US.


MAYBE WHOEVER IT IS THAT'S AFTER DADDY AND ME HAS FINALLY GIVEN UP!
DADDY, WE'VE BEEN AT SEA FOR ALMOST TWO DAYS--ARE WE NEARLY TO EGYPT?
YES, SIS--IT WON'T BE LONG NOW UNTIL WE ARRIVE.
IT FEELS SO SAFE HERE, DAD. I WISH THE TRIP WOULD LAST FOREVER!

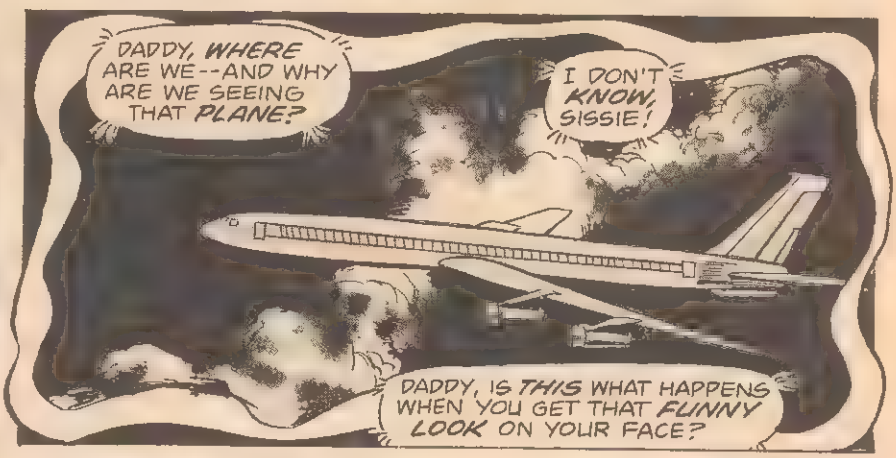
SUDDENLY, IT ALL SEEMS SO STRANGE, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US... ALMOST LIKE IT'S NOT REALLY REAL.
DADDY, WHO SENDS THE MACHINES TO...TO KILL US? ARE THEY REAL PEOPLE?
I DON'T THINK SO, SIS--NOT FROM WHAT I SAW IN MY LAST VISION.
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID BEFORE, SISSIE--ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION.
BUT WHY ARE THEY AFTER US, DADDY?
MAYBE BECAUSE I KNOW TOO MUCH, SIS. I'VE BEEN SPECULATING THAT, PERHAPS IN SOME WAY I HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND, MY PORTABLE PYRAMID POSES A THREAT TO THEM!
I WANT TO ASK DAD MORE QUESTIONS, BUT I JUST STOP SHORT... 'CAUSE I GET A FUNNY FEELING... A SPOOKY FEELING.
THE AIR SEEMS SO STILL. DAD FEELS IT, TOO. HE LOOKS OUT TO SEA--AND STARTS SCREAMING!
SISSIE--SOMETHING'S GOING TO HIT THE SHIP!
I SEE IT, SHOOTING TOWARD US THROUGH THE WATER!
A TORPEDO! THAT'S WHAT DADDY CALLS IT--JUST BEFORE THE LOUD EXPLOSION THAT MAKES ME DEAF AND SENDS US BOTH FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!
DAKKA-
DOOM!
I LAND IN THE WATER HEAD FIRST, AND I SWALLOW A LOT OF IT!
BIG PIECES OF FLAMING METAL FALL ALL AROUND ME, AND I'M SURE I'M GOING TO DIE! BUT I HANG ONTO A FLOATING PIECE OF WOOD, SHIVERING WITH FREEZING COLD, MY EYES SHUT TIGHT!
SISSIE--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
AFTER AWHILE, I OPEN THEM AND SEE DADDY SWIMMING TOWARDS ME.
I CAN SEE HIS LIPS MOVE, BUT MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING TOO MUCH TO HEAR HIM, SO I NOD TO SHOW I'M OKAY.

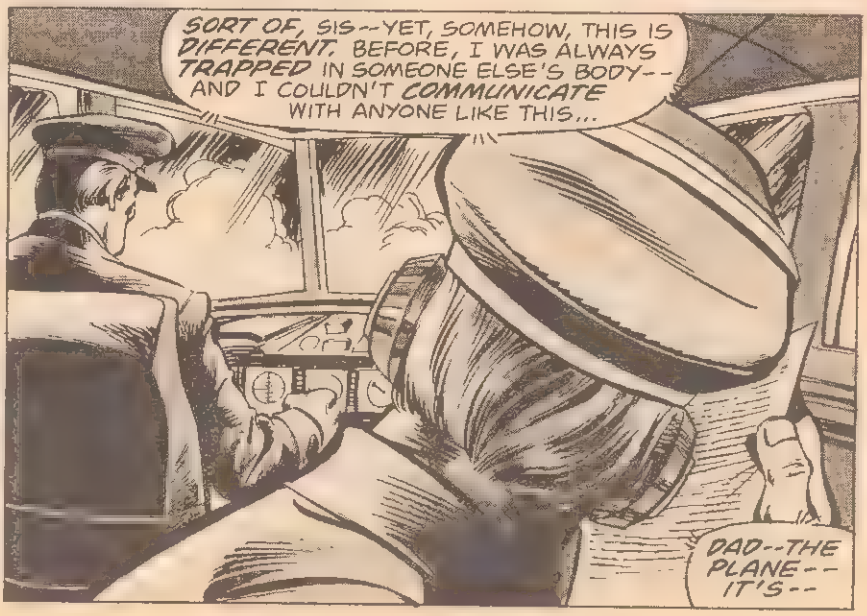

BEFORE TOO LONG, MY HEARING COMES BACK, AND I... I CAN'T HELP IT... I START CRYING...
DADDY, WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US NOW? I'M SO COLD--AND SCARED! ARE WE GONNA DIE OUT HERE?
DON'T CRY, SIS--WE'LL MAKE IT, SOMEHOW.
DAD?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
DAD ASKS ME TO HELP HIM SET UP HIS PORTABLE PYRAMID...RIGHT IN THE WATER...
I DESIGNED IT TO SEAL AIRTIGHT, BUT WE'LL LEAVE THE TOP OPEN, AND IT'LL SERVE AS A LIFEBOAT! WE CAN DRY OFF INSIDE.
DADDY, DO YOU THINK THEY'LL COME BACK--TO KILL US?
I DON'T THINK SO, DEAR. THEY'LL ALMOST CERTAINLY ASSUME WE WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP!
BUT DADDY DIDN'T KNOW JUST HOW WORRIED THEY WERE THAT WE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE...
...UNTIL I SCREAMED AT THE SIGHT OF...
THE KILLERS, DADDY! THEY DID COME BACK--TO MURDER US!
GOOD LORD! AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN ELUDE THEM THIS TIME--NO PLACE TO RUN! WE'RE TRAPPED!
WE WERE LUCKY BEFORE--KEEPING CLOSE TO LARGE CROWDS, ALWAYS ON THE MOVE! BUT NOW--!
NOW THEY'VE REALLY GOT US!


TH-THIS IS IT, SIS!
TRY TO BE BRAVE, AND REMEMBER--DADDY LOVES YOU, DEAR!
NO--IT'S NOT FAIR! I DON'T WANT TO DIE, DADDY!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
I HEAR THEM OUTSIDE YELLING, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. THEY MAKE SCREECHY NOISES--AND THEY REALLY SOUND MAD!
BUT THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING TO US, THEY JUST STAY OUTSIDE--FOR A REAL LONG TIME.
IT'S TERRIBLE, JUST WAITING HERE TO BE KILLED. I WISH I UNDERSTOOD WHAT DYING REALLY IS, BUT I DON'T THINK EVEN DADDY KNOWS FOR SURE, THOUGH HE KNOWS LOTS OF OTHER THINGS.
FINALLY, IT GETS REAL QUIET, SO DADDY PEEKS OUT!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING, DADDY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, SISSIE--BUT THEY'RE LEAVING!
DADDY HUGS ME REAL HARD, AND THEN HE STANDS UP TO TAKE A BETTER LOOK!
THEY'RE ACTUALLY FLYING AWAY--WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT! BUT--WHY?
IF THEY WERE DESPERATE ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE SHIPLOAD OF PEOPLE JUST TO DESTROY US--WHY LET US GO FREE? UNLESS...
"...UNLESS THEY COULDN'T HURT US--EVEN IF THEY TRIED!"
DADDY GETS REAL EXCITED, AND SAYS IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR BEING INSIDE THE PYRAMID.
ITS STRANGE POWER PROTECTS US!
WE STAY INSIDE FOR A WHOLE DAY, AND I GET AWFULLY HUNGRY AND UNCOMFORTABLE.

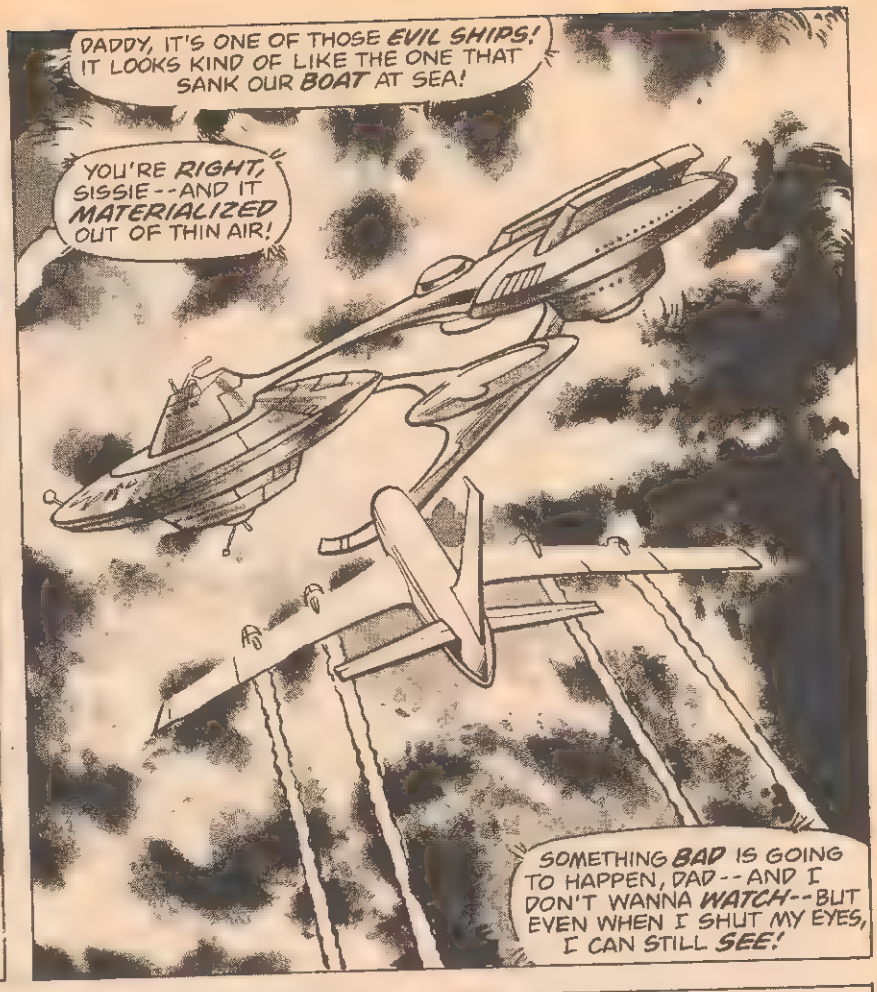

AT LAST, WE DRIFT TO LAND...
DAMN THE ARMY! THEIR SECURITY PEOPLE WERE SO PARANOID ABOUT LEAKS THAT NO ONE KNEW WHAT ANYONE ELSE WAS DOING--LET ALONE THE FULL SCOPE OF THE PROJECT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DADDY?
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT "PROJECT E.T." SIS--AND THE SURREPTITIOUS DISCUSSION DR. STRAUSS AND I HAD.
WERNER CLAIMED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MOST OF THE TWO MILLION PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEAR AROUND THE WORLD EVERY YEAR!
I'M SORRY, DADDY--BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. AND I'M HUNGRY!
ALL RIGHT, HONEY--LET'S PICK SOME BERRIES--AND I'LL EXPLAIN ONCE WE'RE SAFE AGAIN INSIDE THE PYRAMID.
IT DOESN'T TAKE US VERY LONG...
...AND SOON WE'RE BACK INSIDE...
IN HIS WORK FOR THE PROJECT, WERNER HAD GATHERED HARD EVIDENCE THAT MANY OF THOSE PERSONS WERE ABDUCTED--
--BY EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS!
SO THAT'S WHAT THE GUYS CHASING US ARE CALLED!

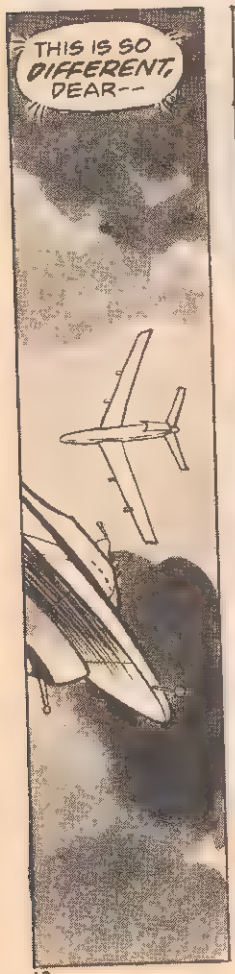
IT MAKES ME SHIVER JUST TO THINK ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE--STOLEN FROM THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES--WITH NO WAY TO EVER GET BACK! I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS TO--
DAD--LOOK!
WHAT--? YOU MEAN YOU SEE IT, TOO?
MAYBE I'M GETTING SICK IN THE HEAD, LIKE DADDY! EVERYTHING IS...CHANGING!

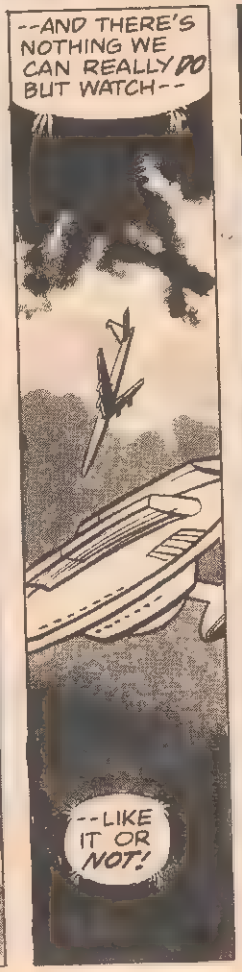

DADDY, WHERE ARE WE--AND WHY ARE WE SEEING THAT PLANE?
I DON'T KNOW, SISSIE!
DADDY, IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET THAT FUNNY LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

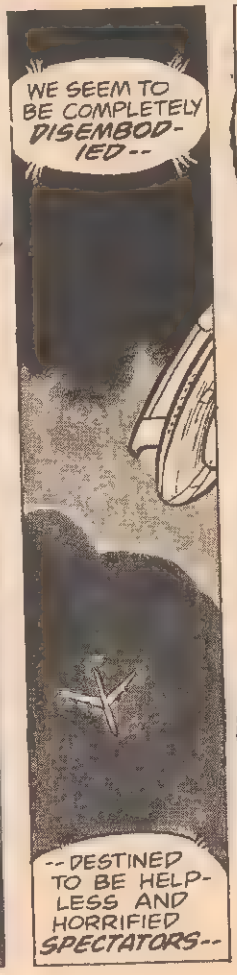

SORT OF, SIS--YET, SOMEHOW, THIS IS DIFFERENT. BEFORE, I WAS ALWAYS TRAPPED IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY--AND I COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE LIKE THIS...
DAD--THE PLANE--IT'S--

GOING INTO A SPIN, CAPTAIN--AND, FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I DON'T KNOW WHY!
MOTHER OF GOD! WHAT'S THAT--
--FORMING IN FRONT OF US!


DADDY, IT'S ONE OF THOSE EVIL SHIPS! IT LOOKS KIND OF LIKE THE ONE THAT SANK OUR BOAT AT SEA!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SISSIE--AND IT MATERIALIZED OUT OF THIN AIR!
SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN, DAD--AND I DON'T WANNA WATCH--BUT EVEN WHEN I SHUT MY EYES, I CAN STILL SEE!


THIS IS SO DIFFERENT, DEAR--


--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN REALLY DO BUT WATCH--
--LIKE IT OR NOT!


WE SEEM TO BE COMPLETELY DISEMBODIED--
--DESTINED TO BE HELPLESS AND HORRIFIED SPECTATORS--

--AT AN UTTERLY SENSELESS, SICKENING--
BEEEEP
RAUZK
--SLAUGHTER!

THEY'RE DEAD, DADDY--THEY'RE DEAD! JUST LIKE MOMMY--JUST LIKE EVERYONE WHO'S EVER SEEN THOSE--ALIENS!
JUST LIKE WE WILL BE.
DAD PUTS HIS ARM AROUND ME, AND IT'S ALL OVER. GONE. WE GO TO SLEEP, AND I HAVE BAD DREAMS.

WE START WALKING EARLY IN THE MORNING. DAD WANTS TO TRY TO FIND A TOWN-- BEFORE THE DESERT GETS TOO HOT.
SISSIE...ABOUT LAST NIGHT...I...I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT FOR A LITTLE GIRL, YOU'VE BEEN HIT WITH TOO MANY TERRIBLE SHOCKS...
WHAT YOU SAW... WELL, MAYBE IT WAS JUST A NIGHTMARE...ANOTHER BAD DREAM.
DADDY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO ME, I KNOW WE SAW THAT PLANE EXPLODE...SAW ALL THOSE PEOPLE DIE.
YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD ANYMORE, DAD-- WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH TOGETHER.
YEAH, SIS...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY...
...SORRY YOU HAD TO GROW UP SO FAST.
AFTER AWHILE, WE COME TO A CITY.
DADDY FINDS US A HOTEL FAST. THE HOT BATH AND FOOD REALLY FEEL GOOD.
BUT DADDY KEEPS WALKING BACK AND FORTH IN OUR ROOM AND TALKING ABOUT THE SIGHT WE SHARED INSIDE THE PYRAMID. HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I SAW IT, TOO...OR WHAT IT MEANS.
BEFORE I DRIVE YOU WILD WITH MY PACING, SISSIE, LET'S GO OUT FOR A WALK THROUGH THE CROWDED BAZAAR... IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST AS SAFE THERE AS IT IS HERE.
DADDY ASKS AROUND AND LEARNS THE NAME OF THE TOWN IS EL ALAMEIN, AND HE ALSO FINDS OUT WHERE TO BUY AN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER...
WE'LL ONLY BE SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE, SISSIE, SO--
GOOD LORD!
WHAT'S WRONG, DADDY?
LOOK AT THE FRONT PAGE, SISSIE!
I GET REAL COLD AND EMPTY INSIDE, READING THAT AWFUL HEADLINE--
JET LINER DISAPPE
IN BRAZIL. 180 L
GARBLED RADIO TRANSMISSION SPEAKS OF 'STRANGE OBJECT'
--AND SEEING THE PLANE IN THE PICTURE,
BOEING WHICH

DADDY STARTS RUNNING BACK TOWARD THE HOTEL, LIKE HE'S FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME--BUT WHEN HE SEES I'M STILL STANDING, READING THE PAPER, HE YELLS AT ME TO DROP IT AND COME WITH HIM, QUICK!

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANCE TO CATCH MY BREATH AS WE RACE ALL THE WAY TO OUR ROOM, WHERE DAD HURRIES TO PUT HIS PYRAMID TOGETHER!

LAST NIGHT, WHEN WE SAT INSIDE, WE WERE BATHED IN THE PECULIAR ENERGY THE PYRAMID ACCUMULATES--IN FACT, WE WERE ABSORBING IT THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE ADRIFT AT SEA!

THAT UNUSUAL ENERGY MUST HAVE ACTED AS A CATALYST WHICH STIMULATED SOME LATENT MENTAL ABILITIES WE SHARE, SISSIE.

BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR SURE!

GET INSIDE, SISSIE--WE'RE GOING TO FIELD TEST MY THEORY!

ALL WERNER'S TALK OF ANCESTRAL MEMORY MAKES ME THINK MAYBE WE HAVE GENETICALLY-IMPRINTED PSYCHIC ABILITIES!

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO TEST IT--TO FOCUS IT--ON THE ALIENS!

IF WHAT DADDY SAYS IS TRUE, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO FIGHT BACK!

SISSIE, I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THAT EXTRATERRESTRIAL SHIP WE SAW LAST NIGHT!

I THINK ABOUT THE SHIP, JUST LIKE DAD SAYS, AND SUDDENLY IT STARTS HAPPENING AGAIN!

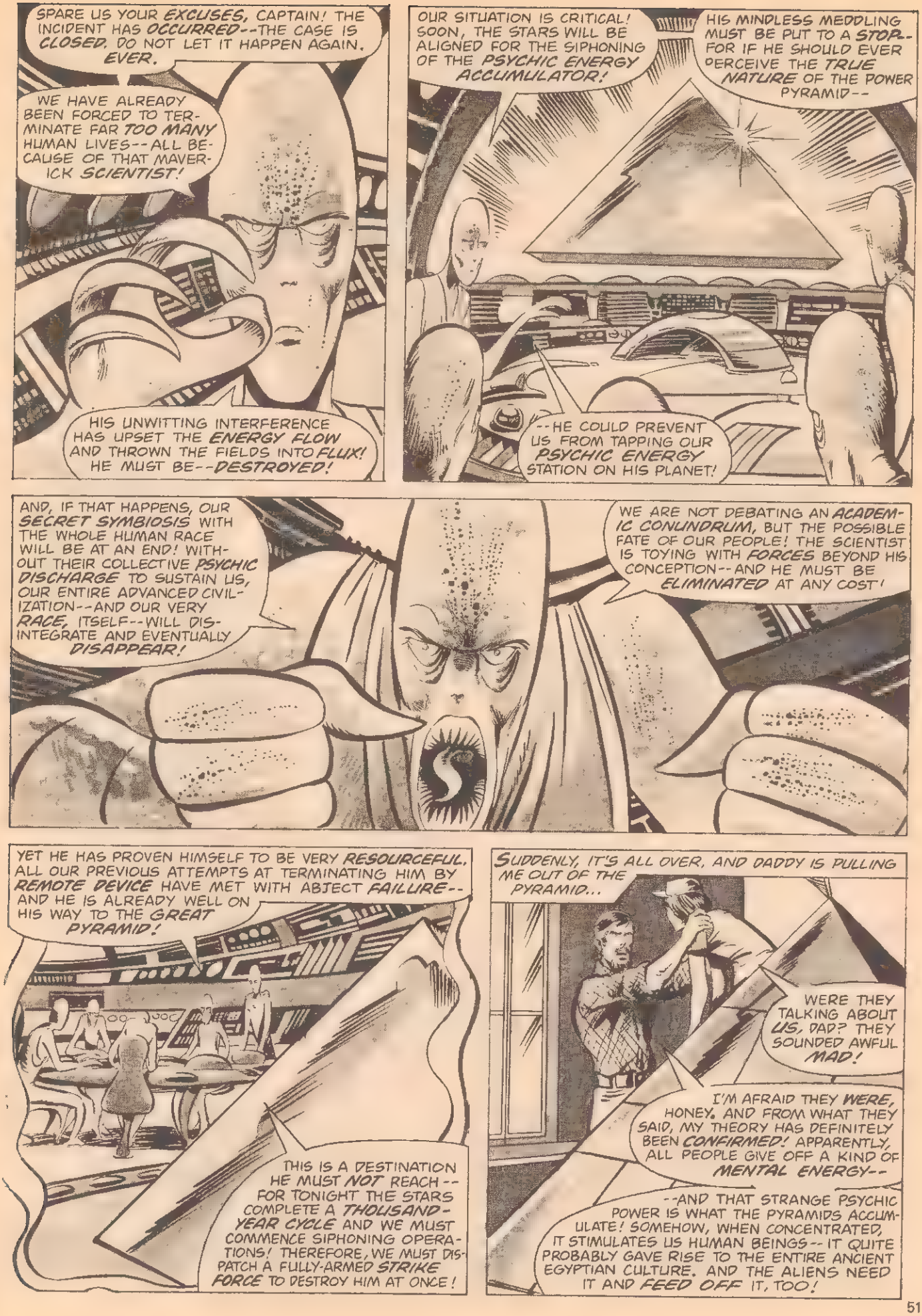
DADDY'S IDEA IS RIGHT--AND SOMEHOW WE CAN SEE AND HEAR THE ALIENS!

AND THIS TIME I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR SCREECHY TALK!

YOU HAVE BECOME CARELESS, CAPTAIN! IT IS TOTALLY INEXCUSABLE TO PHASE IN NEAR A WELL-TRAVELED AIR ROUTE!

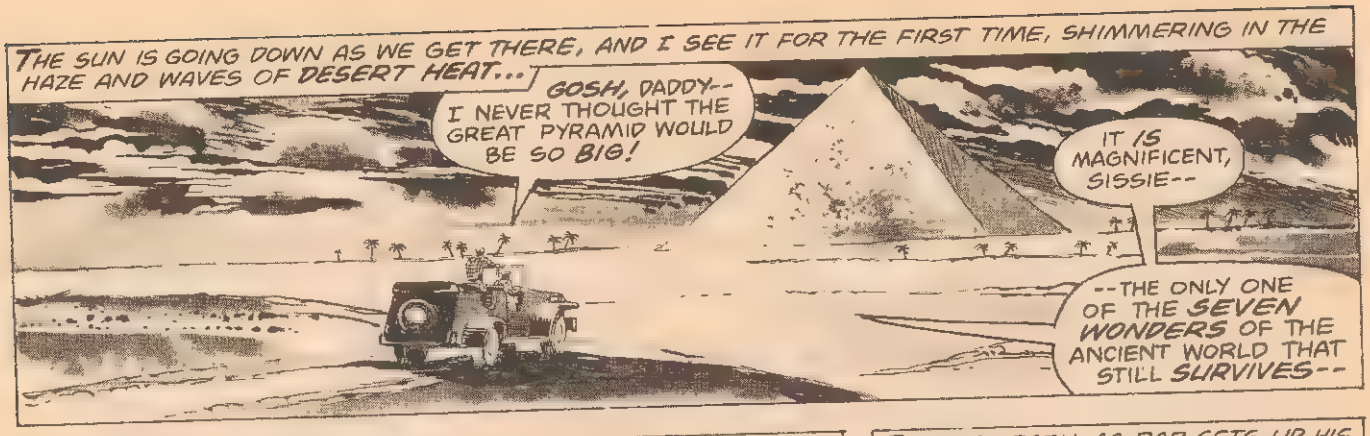
INDEED, WANTON DESTRUCTION OF THESE LIVING RESOURCES CAUSES MUCH TOO GREAT A DISTURBANCE IN THE ENERGY FLOW FIELDS!

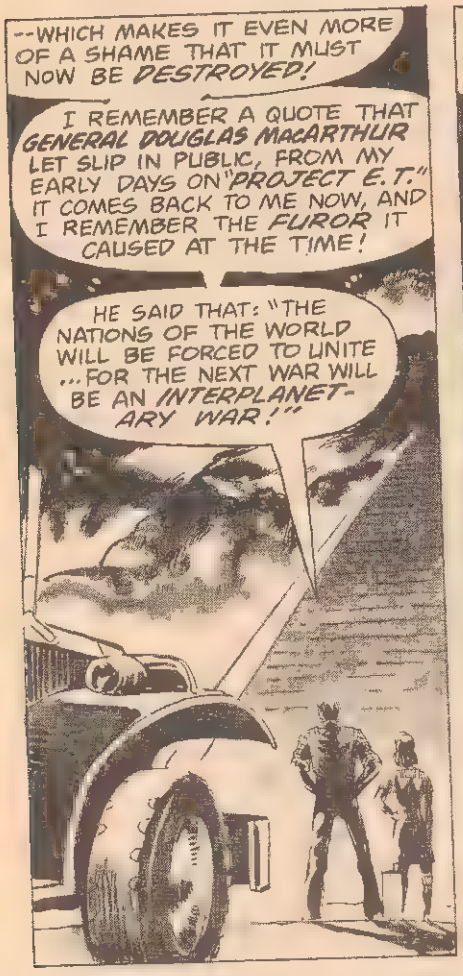
I DEEPLY REGRET THE INCIDENT, IMPERATOR--BUT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY UNAVOIDABLE. YOU SEE, IN ORDER TO--


SPARE US YOUR EXCUSES, CAPTAIN! THE INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED--THE CASE IS CLOSED. DO NOT LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. EVER.
WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORCED TO TERMINATE FAR TOO MANY HUMAN LIVES--ALL BECAUSE OF THAT MAVERICK SCIENTIST!
HIS UNWITTING INTERFERENCE HAS UPSET THE ENERGY FLOW AND THROWN THE FIELDS INTO FLUX! HE MUST BE--DESTROYED!
OUR SITUATION IS CRITICAL! SOON, THE STARS WILL BE ALIGNED FOR THE SIPHONING OF THE PSYCHIC ENERGY ACCUMULATOR!
HIS MINDLESS MEDDLING MUST BE PUT TO A STOP--FOR IF HE SHOULD EVER PERCEIVE THE TRUE NATURE OF THE POWER PYRAMID--
--HE COULD PREVENT US FROM TAPPING OUR PSYCHIC ENERGY STATION ON HIS PLANET!
AND, IF THAT HAPPENS, OUR SECRET SYMBIOSIS WITH THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE WILL BE AT AN END! WITHOUT THEIR COLLECTIVE PSYCHIC DISCHARGE TO SUSTAIN US, OUR ENTIRE ADVANCED CIVILIZATION--AND OUR VERY RACE, ITSELF--WILL DISINTEGRATE AND EVENTUALLY DISAPPEAR!
WE ARE NOT DEBATING AN ACADEMIC CONUNDRUM, BUT THE POSSIBLE FATE OF OUR PEOPLE! THE SCIENTIST IS TOYING WITH FORCES BEYOND HIS CONCEPTION--AND HE MUST BE ELIMINATED AT ANY COST!
YET HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE VERY RESOURCEFUL. ALL OUR PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT TERMINATING HIM BY REMOTE DEVICE HAVE MET WITH ABJECT FAILURE--AND HE IS ALREADY WELL ON HIS WAY TO THE GREAT PYRAMID!
THIS IS A DESTINATION HE MUST NOT REACH--FOR TONIGHT THE STARS COMPLETE A THOUSAND-YEAR CYCLE AND WE MUST COMMENCE SIPHONING OPERATIONS! THEREFORE, WE MUST DISPATCH A FULLY-ARMED STRIKE FORCE TO DESTROY HIM AT ONCE!
SUDDENLY, IT'S ALL OVER, AND DADDY IS PULLING ME OUT OF THE PYRAMID...
WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT US, DAD? THEY SOUNDED AWFUL MAD!
I'M AFRAID THEY WERE, HONEY. AND FROM WHAT THEY SAID, MY THEORY HAS DEFINITELY BEEN CONFIRMED! APPARENTLY, ALL PEOPLE GIVE OFF A KIND OF MENTAL ENERGY--
--AND THAT STRANGE PSYCHIC POWER IS WHAT THE PYRAMIDS ACCUMULATE! SOMEHOW, WHEN CONCENTRATED, IT STIMULATES US HUMAN BEINGS--IT QUITE PROBABLY GAVE RISE TO THE ENTIRE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CULTURE. AND THE ALIENS NEED IT AND FEED OFF IT, TOO!

DADDY'S VOICE GETS REAL QUIET AND SERIOUS...
SISSIE, I KNOW I'M ASKING AN AWFUL LOT --AND I'LL LEAVE THE DECISION TO YOU. SHOULD WE TAKE OUR CHANCES AND PRESS ON TO THE GREAT PYRAMID--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS WE'LL BE IN EVEN MORE DANGER?
OR SHOULD WE TRY TO LOSE OURSELVES? I KNOW LIFE HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR YOU LATELY, AND I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY LEFT TO...
I'M TIRED OF RUNNING, DADDY.
SISSIE, I'M PROUD OF YOU. YOU'RE A BIG GIRL NOW... AND YOU'RE BRAVE... JUST LIKE...
JUST LIKE MOMMY. DADDY DOESN'T SAY IT, BUT HE MEANS I'M JUST LIKE HER. HE PACKS UP HIS PYRAMID IN A HURRY, AND RENTS A JEEP. I FEEL HAPPY, BUT SCARED. BEFORE, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS CHASING US--AND NOW WE KNOW MORE THAN THE ALIENS EXPECT!
THAT COULD BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE!
DADDY'S SO STRONG AND SURE OF HIMSELF NOW--SINCE HE'S LEARNED THAT HE'S NOT REALLY SICK IN THE HEAD, AFTER ALL!
I BET HE'S THINKING OF A WAY TO STOP THOSE ALIEN MURDERERS--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! I WANT TO ASK HIM WHAT HIS PLAN IS, BUT THEN I'LL SOUND LIKE A LITTLE KID.
WE DRIVE FOR HOURS, AND JUST AS I'M ABOUT TO ASK WHEN WE'LL GET THERE, I SEE...
ARABS! UP THERE, DAD --ON THAT SAND DUNE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN REAL ARABS ON CAMELS BEFORE--EXCEPT IN STORY BOOKS AND ON TV!
THEY'RE LIVING SYMBOLS OF A BYGONE ERA, SIS. TECHNOLOGY IS COMING RAPIDLY TO RICH OIL COUNTRIES, AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY'RE ALL DRIVING CARS JUST LIKE EVERYONE... BACK HOME.
DADDY! LOOK OUT!
CHRIST! HOW DID THEY GET IN FRONT OF US--SO FAST!

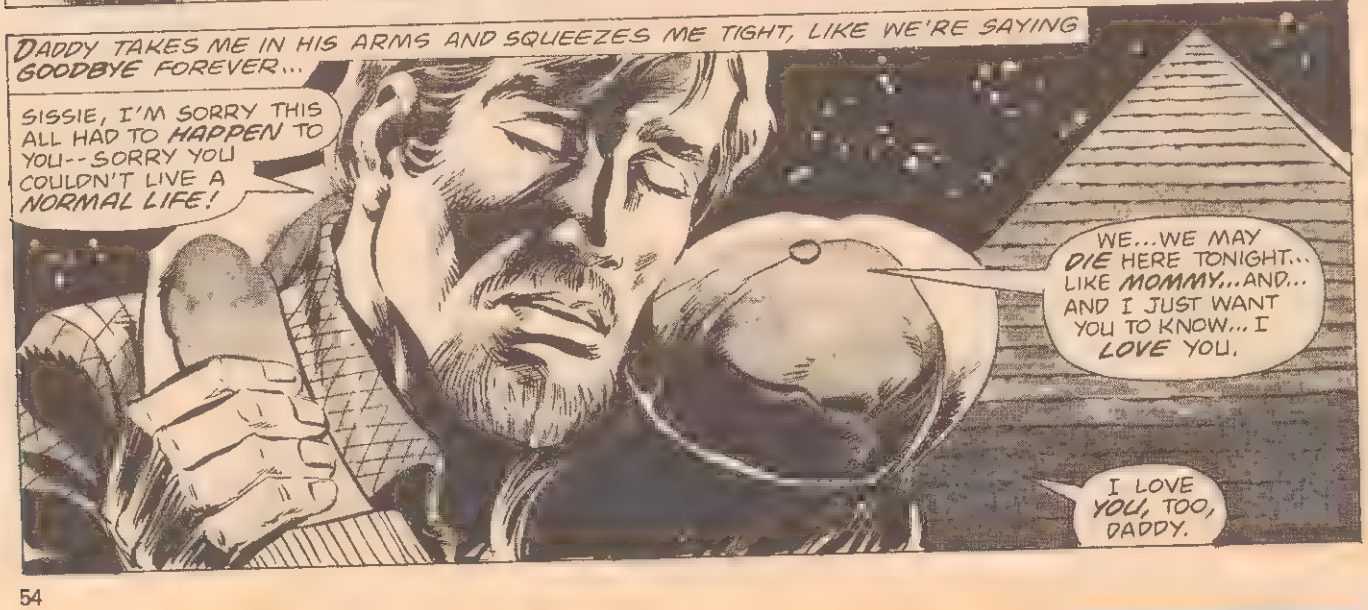
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING SEEMS REAL SPOOKY. THEY JUST STAND THERE IN FRONT OF US...
...AND IT SEEMS LIKE WE SIT, STARING, FOR A LONG TIME.
THEN EVERYTHING SPEEDS UP REAL FAST!
THEY'RE NOT ARABS, DADDY-- THEY'RE THE ALIEN STRIKE FORCE!
SHUT YOUR EYES, SISSIE--
--AND HANG ON TIGHT--
--BECAUSE WE'RE BUSTING THROUGH!
WE REALLY TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE! I GUESS THEY'RE SO USED TO US RUNNING AWAY FROM THEM THAT THEY NEVER THOUGHT WE'D FIGHT BACK!
I KEEP MY EYES OPEN, EVEN THOUGH DADDY TOLD ME NOT TO, AND IT FEELS GOOD TO SEE MOMMY'S KILLERS GET HURT! THIS TIME, THEY CAME AFTER US THEMSELVES, INSTEAD OF SENDING A MURDER MACHINE.
IF DADDY HADN'T ACTED SO FAST, TAKEN SUCH A CHANCE, WE'D BE DEAD NOW!
BUT HOW LONG WILL OUR LUCK LAST?

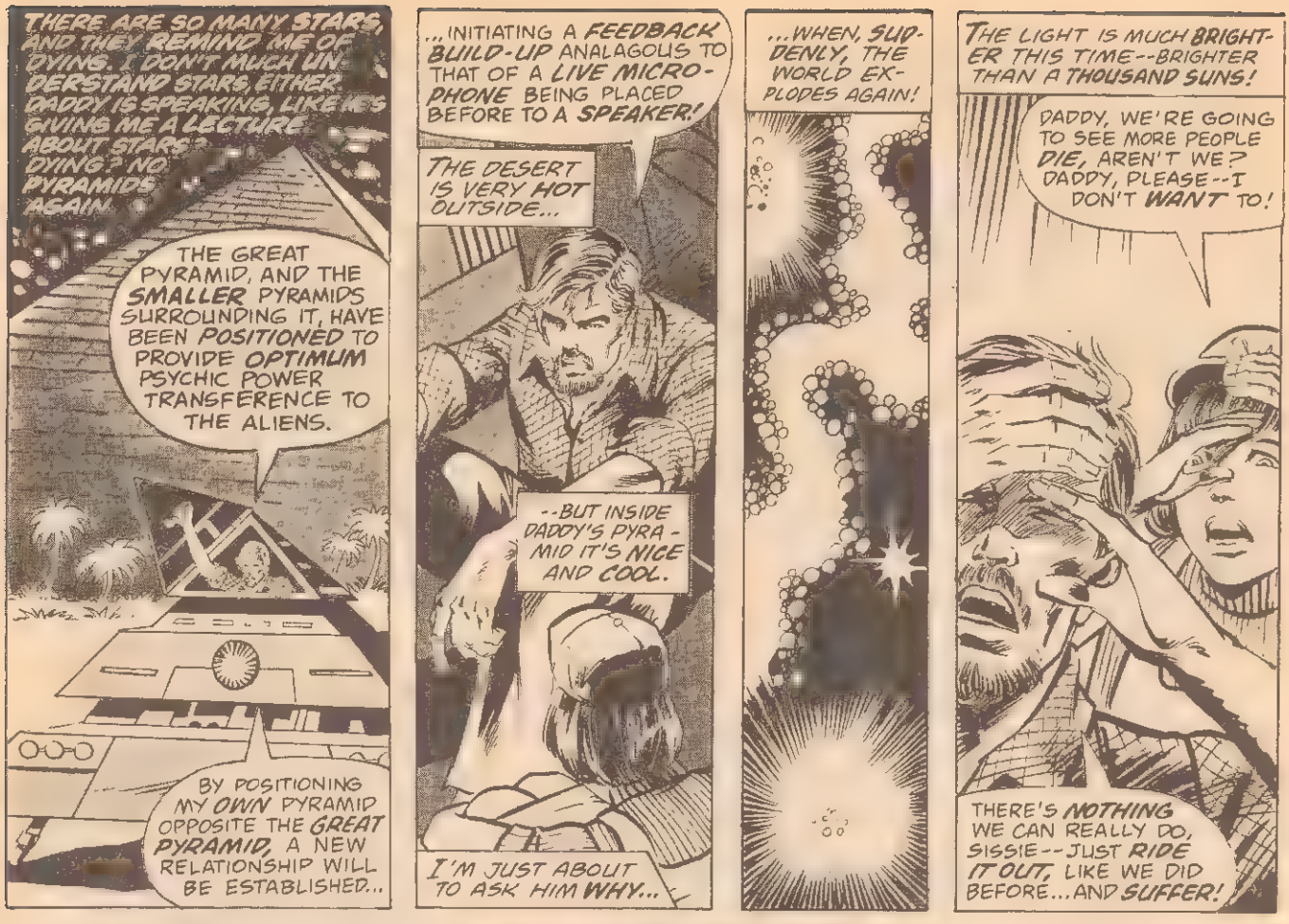

THE SUN IS GOING DOWN AS WE GET THERE, AND I SEE IT FOR THE FIRST TIME, SHIMMERING IN THE HAZE AND WAVES OF DESERT HEAT...
GOSH, DADDY--I NEVER THOUGHT THE GREAT PYRAMID WOULD BE SO BIG!
IT IS MAGNIFICENT, SISSIE--
--THE ONLY ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD THAT STILL SURVIVES--

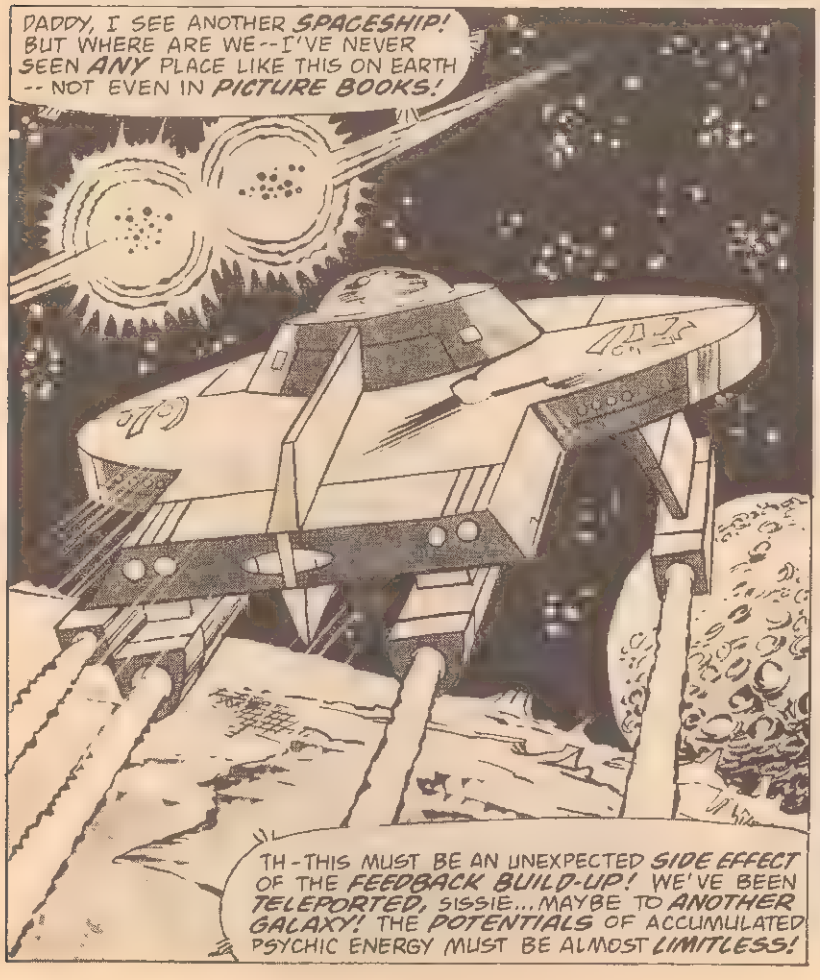

--WHICH MAKES IT EVEN MORE OF A SHAME THAT IT MUST NOW BE DESTROYED!
I REMEMBER A QUOTE THAT GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR LET SLIP IN PUBLIC, FROM MY EARLY DAYS ON "PROJECT E.T." IT COMES BACK TO ME NOW, AND I REMEMBER THE FUROR IT CAUSED AT THE TIME!
HE SAID THAT: "THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL BE FORCED TO UNITE ...FOR THE NEXT WAR WILL BE AN INTERPLANETARY WAR!"

WELL, SISSIE--WE MAY NOT GET ANY HONOR OR ESTEEM OR UNDERSTANDING FOR WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO--
--BUT I BELIEVE IT MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT BLOW YET STRUCK FOR MANKIND IN OUR SECRET WAR WITH BEINGS FROM BEYOND THE STARS!

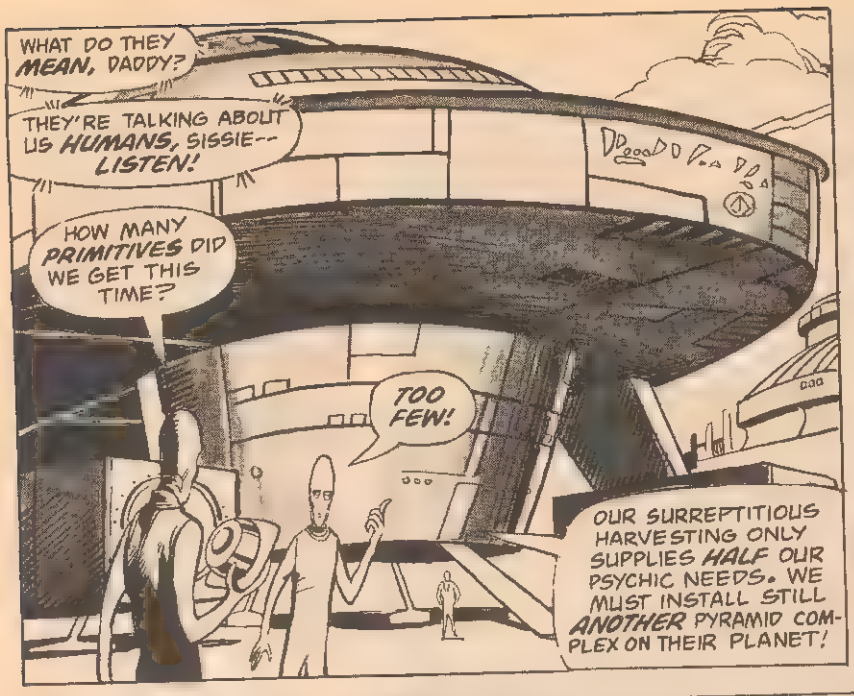
IT GETS DARK AS DAD SETS UP HIS PORTABLE PYRAMID IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT PYRAMID...
IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT THE PSYCHIC ENERGY OF WHICH THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS SPOKE STEMS FROM AND IS THE KEY TO THE UNUSED 90% OF THE HUMAN MIND!
IF THAT IS INDEED SO, THEN THE POTENTIAL OF THIS ACCUMULATED POWER IS INCALCULABLE!
WE MUST PREVENT THE ALIENS FROM TAPPING IT, SISSIE --WE MUST!

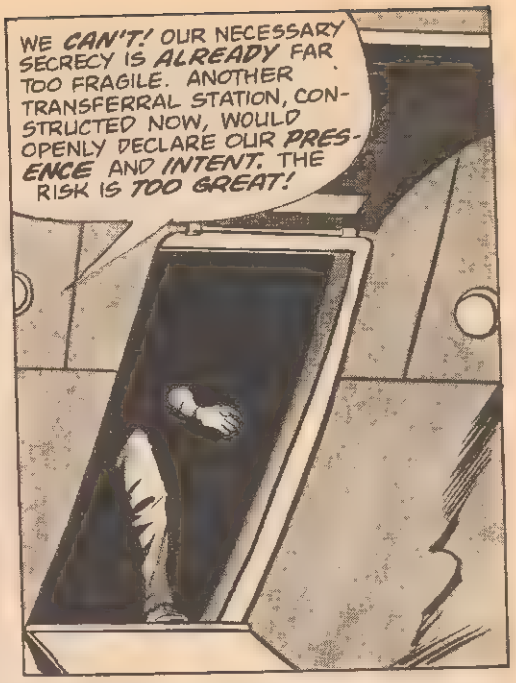

DADDY TAKES ME IN HIS ARMS AND SQUEEZES ME TIGHT, LIKE WE'RE SAYING GOODBYE FOREVER...
SISSIE, I'M SORRY THIS ALL HAD TO HAPPEN TO YOU--SORRY YOU COULDN'T LIVE A NORMAL LIFE!
WE...WE MAY DIE HERE TONIGHT... LIKE MOMMY...AND... AND I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW... I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, TOO, DADDY.

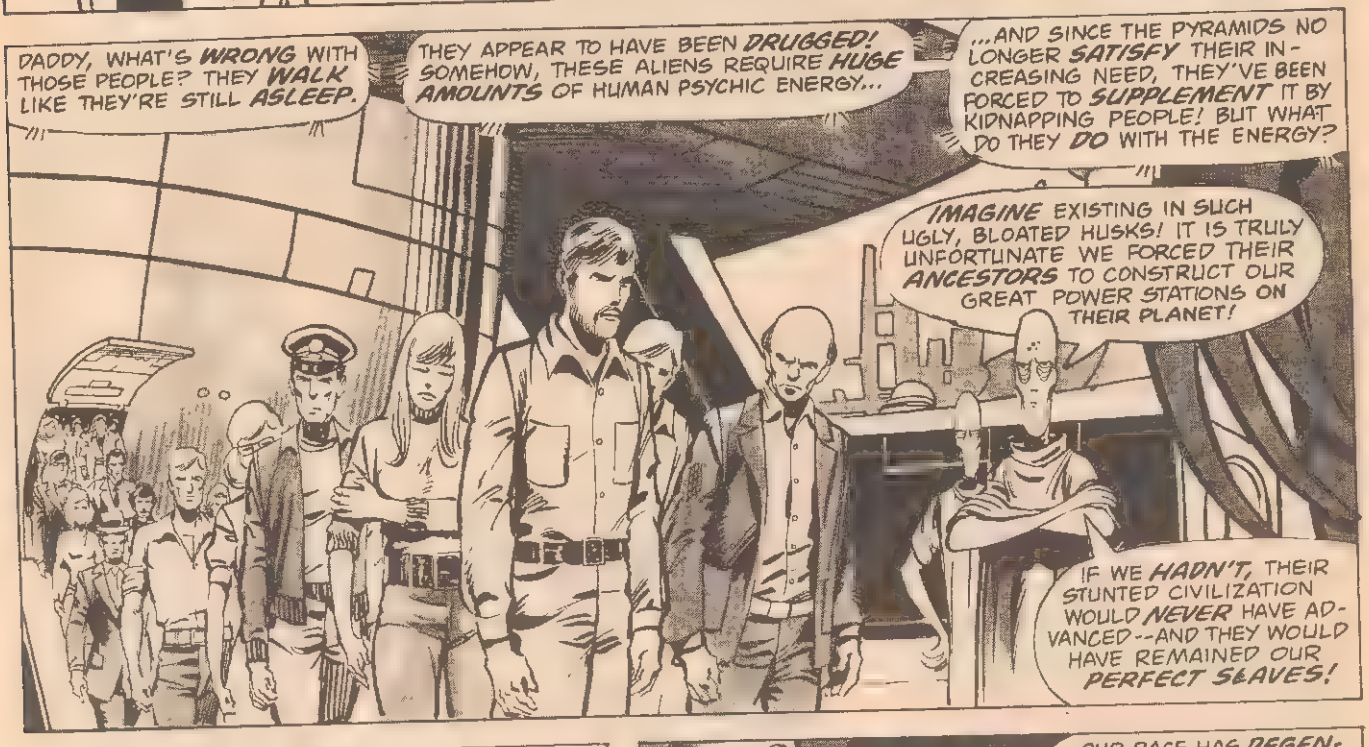

THERE ARE SO MANY STARS, AND THEY REMIND ME OF DYING. I DON'T MUCH UNDERSTAND STARS, EITHER. DADDY IS SPEAKING, LIKE HE'S GIVING ME A LECTURE ABOUT STARS? DYING? NO PYRAMIDS AGAIN.
THE GREAT PYRAMID, AND THE SMALLER PYRAMIDS SURROUNDING IT, HAVE BEEN POSITIONED TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM PSYCHIC POWER TRANSFERENCE TO THE ALIENS.
BY POSITIONING MY OWN PYRAMID OPPOSITE THE GREAT PYRAMID, A NEW RELATIONSHIP WILL BE ESTABLISHED...
...INITIATING A FEEDBACK BUILD-UP ANALAGOUS TO THAT OF A LIVE MICRO-PHONE BEING PLACED BEFORE TO A SPEAKER!
THE DESERT IS VERY HOT OUTSIDE...
--BUT INSIDE DADDY'S PYRA-MID IT'S NICE AND COOL.
I'M JUST ABOUT TO ASK HIM WHY...
...WHEN, SUD-DENLY, THE WORLD EX-PLODES AGAIN!
THE LIGHT IS MUCH BRIGHT-ER THIS TIME--BRIGHTER THAN A THOUSAND SUNS!
DADDY, WE'RE GOING TO SEE MORE PEOPLE DIE, AREN'T WE? DADDY, PLEASE--I DON'T WANT TO!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN REALLY DO, SISSIE--JUST RIDE IT OUT, LIKE WE DID BEFORE...AND SUFFER!

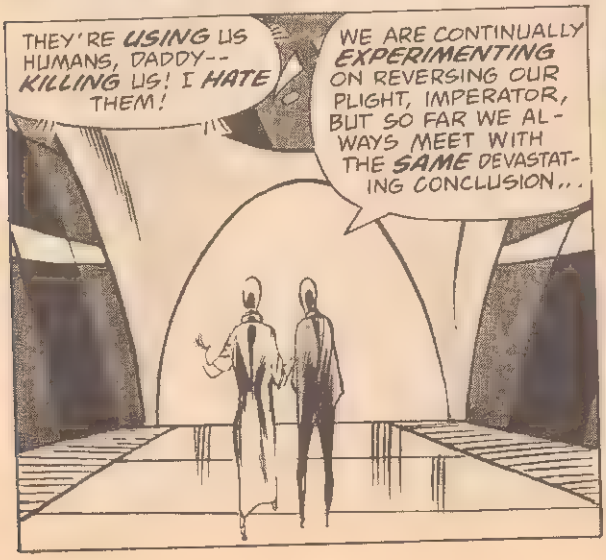

DADDY, I SEE ANOTHER SPACESHIP! BUT WHERE ARE WE--I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY PLACE LIKE THIS ON EARTH -- NOT EVEN IN PICTURE BOOKS!
TH-THIS MUST BE AN UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECT OF THE FEEDBACK BUILD-UP! WE'VE BEEN TELEPORTED, SISSIE...MAYBE TO ANOTHER GALAXY! THE POTENTIALS OF ACCUMULATED PSYCHIC ENERGY MUST BE ALMOST LIMITLESS!

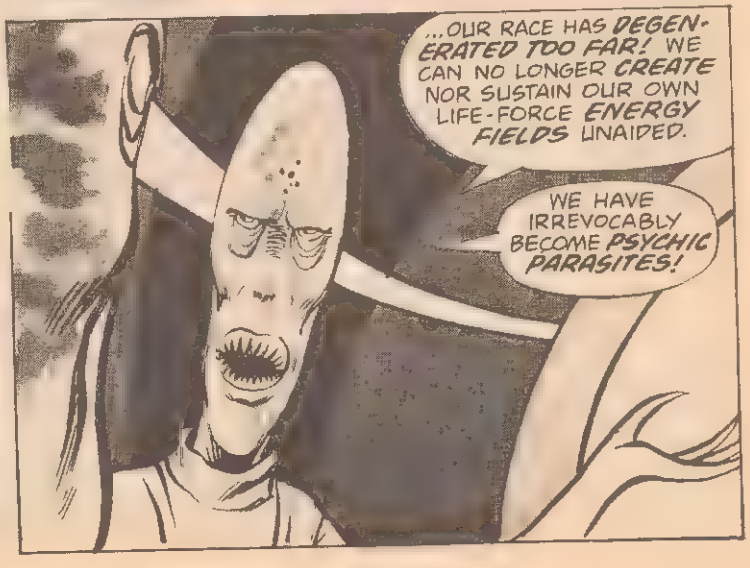
SOMEHOW, WE ARE DRAWN INSIDE THE SPACESHIP. I HEAR THE SQUEAKY-VOICED ALIENS TALKING AGAIN--AND I'M REAL SCARED!
AGAIN THERE ARE NO YOUNG ONES IN THIS SHIPMENT. THE HIGH COUNCIL WILL ISSUE ANOTHER SCATHING REPRIMAND!
THE PRIMITIVES GUARD THEIR OFFSPRING WELL...AS IF THEY SOMEHOW SENSE OUR PRESENCE.
IMPOSSIBLE!
I DISAGREE. THEIR RACE IS EX-TREMELY ADROIT WITNESS THEIR RAPID RISE AFTER WE INSTALLED THE PYRAMID POWER STATIONS!


WHAT DO THEY MEAN, DADDY?
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US HUMANS, SISSIE-- LISTEN!
HOW MANY PRIMITIVES DID WE GET THIS TIME?
TOO FEW!
OUR SURREPTITIOUS HARVESTING ONLY SUPPLIES HALF OUR PSYCHIC NEEDS. WE MUST INSTALL STILL ANOTHER PYRAMID COMPLEX ON THEIR PLANET!

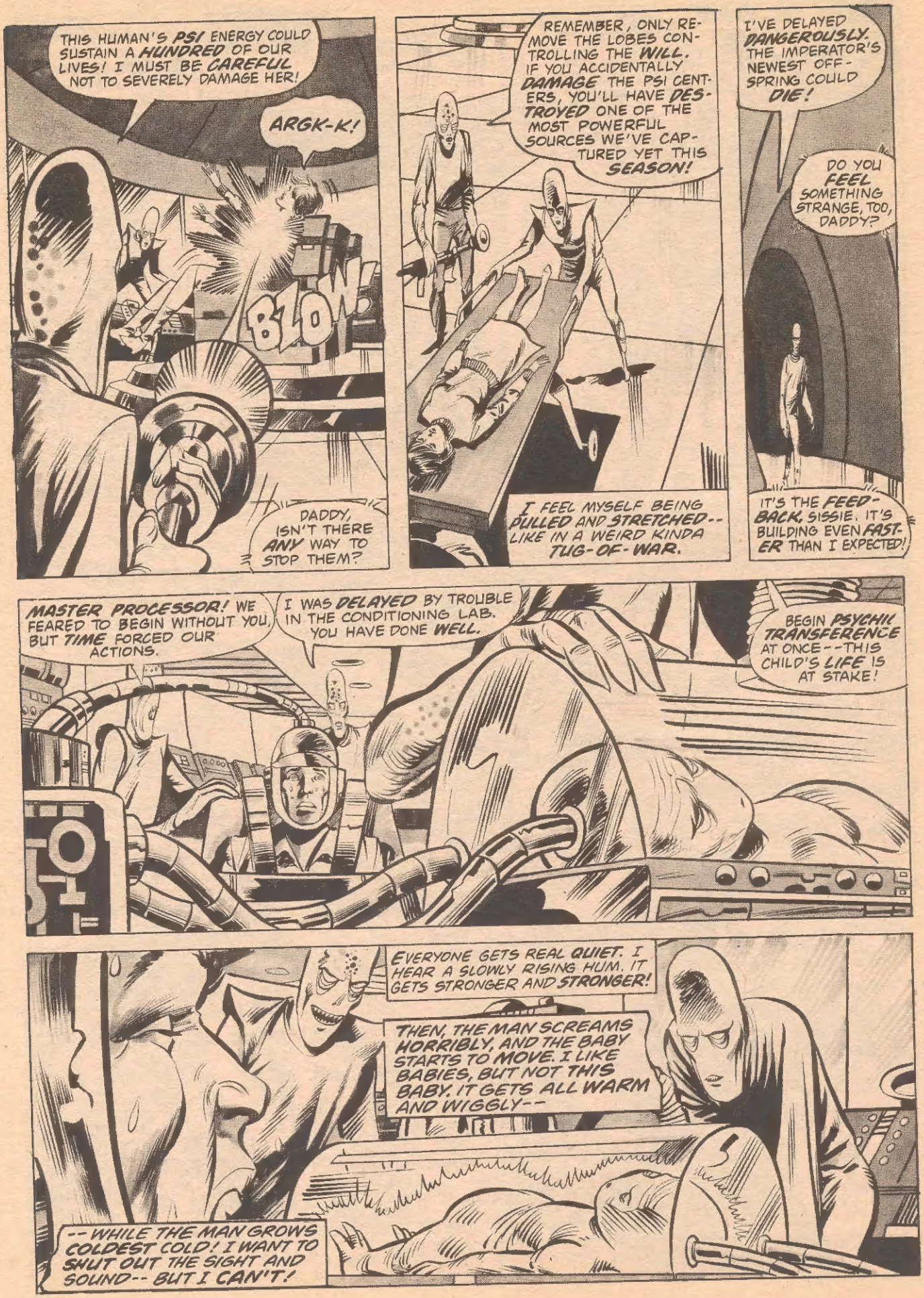

WE CAN'T! OUR NECESSARY SECRECY IS ALREADY FAR TOO FRAGILE. ANOTHER TRANSFERRAL STATION, CONSTRUCTED NOW, WOULD OPENLY DECLARE OUR PRESENCE AND INTENT. THE RISK IS TOO GREAT!


DADDY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE PEOPLE? THEY WALK LIKE THEY'RE STILL ASLEEP.
THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DRUGGED! SOMEHOW, THESE ALIENS REQUIRE HUGE AMOUNTS OF HUMAN PSYCHIC ENERGY...
...AND SINCE THE PYRAMIDS NO LONGER SATISFY THEIR INCREASING NEED, THEY'VE BEEN FORCED TO SUPPLEMENT IT BY KIDNAPPING PEOPLE! BUT WHAT DO THEY DO WITH THE ENERGY?
IMAGINE EXISTING IN SUCH UGLY, BLOATED HUSKS! IT IS TRULY UNFORTUNATE WE FORCED THEIR ANCESTORS TO CONSTRUCT OUR GREAT POWER STATIONS ON THEIR PLANET!
IF WE HADN'T, THEIR STUNTED CIVILIZATION WOULD NEVER HAVE ADVANCED--AND THEY WOULD HAVE REMAINED OUR PERFECT SLAVES!

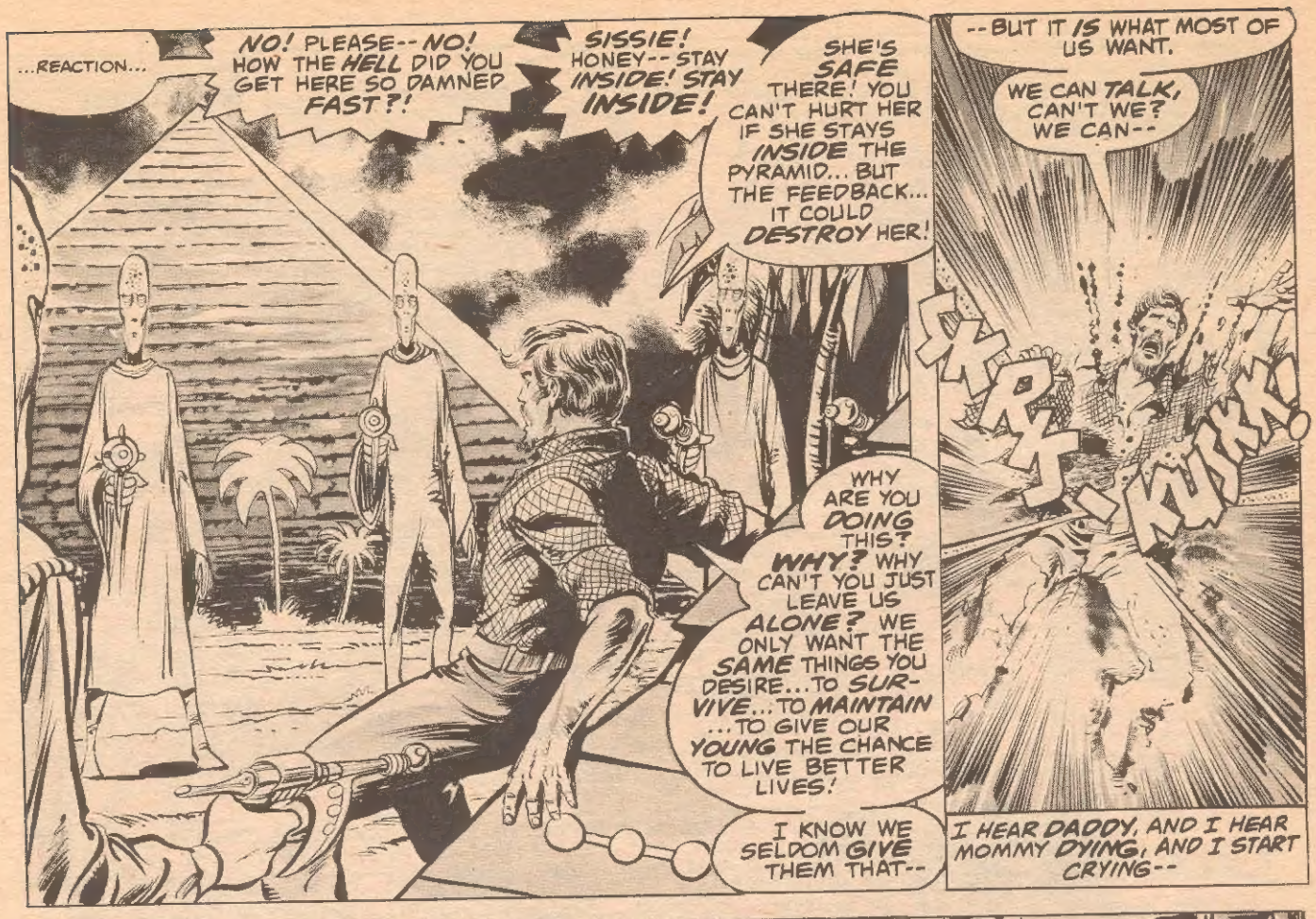

THEY'RE USING US HUMANS, DADDY-- KILLING US! I HATE THEM!
WE ARE CONTINUALLY EXPERIMENTING ON REVERSING OUR PLIGHT, IMPERATOR, BUT SO FAR WE ALWAYS MEET WITH THE SAME DEVASTATING CONCLUSION...

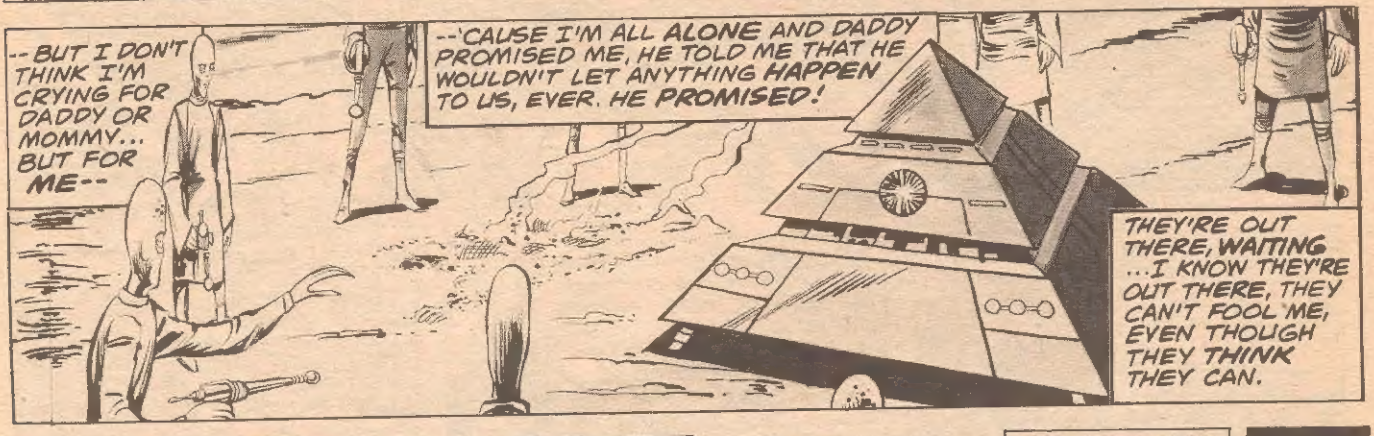

...OUR RACE HAS DEGENERATED TOO FAR! WE CAN NO LONGER CREATE NOR SUSTAIN OUR OWN LIFE-FORCE ENERGY FIELDS UNAIDED.
WE HAVE IRREVOCABLY BECOME PSYCHIC PARASITES!

I FEARED AS MUCH.
ALREADY, OUR BODIES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN EMACIATED SHADOWS, COMPARED TO THE CONSTITUTIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS!
YET OUR CONDITION IS NOT TOTALLY HOPELESS--WE STILL HAVE THESE HUMANS TO HELP US!
BUT AT WHAT COST TO US IN MATERIALS AND INTEGRITY?
WE DELUDE OURSELVES--CLAIMING TO BE MASTERS OF THE GALAXY, WHILE WE ARE SO PHYSICALLY WEAK THAT EVEN OUR NEWLY BORN WOULD DIE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLEMENTAL PSYCHIC ENERGY!
UHHHNN!
THE IMPERATOR--HE'S READY TO GIVE BIRTH IMMEDIATELY.
ORDERLY, ESCORT THE IMPERATOR TO THE SYMBIOTIC CHAMBER--AT ONCE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THE IMPER... THE WHATEVER HE IS... DADDIES DON'T HAVE BABIES! AND THEN THEY TAKE SOMETHING FROM THE MAN TIED IN THE CHAIR WITH ALL THE GIZMOS... THEY YANK IT RIGHT OUT OF HIS HEAD, AND I WANT TO SCREAM WITH HIM!
FOOLS! YOU HAVE OVERSTIMULATED THE PRIMITIVE'S EMOTIONAL CENTERS--ADMINISTER THE SEDATIVE BEFORE IT DIES!
LET ME GO! THE MEMORIES--I'D FORGOTTEN THE PAIN!
THE PAIN!
PLEASE STOP TORTURING MEEEEEE...!
SEE WHAT YOUR OVERZEALOUSNESS HAS COST US!? THEIR PSYCHIC LEVELS ARE GREAT--BUT THEIR PHYSICAL SYSTEMS ARE WEAK! WE CANNOT AFFORD SUCH CARELESSNESS!
DAMN YOU! YOU ONLY CARE FOR YOUR OWN LIVES--YOU FEED ON OUR ANXIETIES--DRAIN ALL OUR PSYCHIC ENERGIES SLOWLY--'TIL WE DIE! WELL, HERE--TAKE IT ALL AT ONCE!
I'LL SACRIFICE MYSELF--TO DESTROY YOU!
ZZKRAKK!
XXXUCK!
I CRY FOR THE BRAVE LADY--BUT I'M PROUD THAT SOMEONE IS FIGHTING BACK!
I MUST ACT QUICKLY! I CAN'T ALLOW THE HUMAN TO HARM ANY MORE OF US--OR DISRUPT OUR OPERATIONS!
I CALL OUT TO HER, BUT SHE DOESN'T HEAR ME! AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER KILLED--IT ISN'T FAIR!


THIS HUMAN'S PSI ENERGY COULD SUSTAIN A HUNDRED OF OUR LIVES! I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SEVERELY DAMAGE HER!
ARGK-K!
BLOW!
DADDY, ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO STOP THEM?
REMEMBER, ONLY REMOVE THE LOBES CONTROLLING THE WILL. IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY DAMAGE THE PSI CENTERS, YOU'LL HAVE DESTROYED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SOURCES WE'VE CAPTURED YET THIS SEASON!
I FEEL MYSELF BEING PULLED AND STRETCHED--LIKE IN A WEIRD KINDA TUG-OF-WAR.
I'VE DELAYED DANGEROUSLY. THE IMPERATOR'S NEWEST OFFSPRING COULD DIE!
DO YOU FEEL SOMETHING STRANGE, TOO, DADDY?
IT'S THE FEEDBACK, SISSIE. IT'S BUILDING EVEN FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!
MASTER PROCESSOR! WE FEARED TO BEGIN WITHOUT YOU, BUT TIME FORCED OUR ACTIONS.
I WAS DELAYED BY TROUBLE IN THE CONDITIONING LAB. YOU HAVE DONE WELL.
BEGIN PSYCHIC TRANSFERENCE AT ONCE--THIS CHILD'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
EVERYONE GETS REAL QUIET. I HEAR A SLOWLY RISING HUM. IT GETS STRONGER AND STRONGER!
THEN, THE MAN SCREAMS HORRIBLY, AND THE BABY STARTS TO MOVE. I LIKE BABIES, BUT NOT THIS BABY. IT GETS ALL WARM AND WIGGLY--
--WHILE THE MAN GROWS COLDEST COLD! I WANT TO SHUT OUT THE SIGHT AND SOUND--BUT I CAN'T!

SOON THE MAN STOPS YELLING AND STRUGGLING. HE HASN'T ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT. I WANT TO CRY... BUT NO TEARS COME.
I CAN'T DO OR SAY ANYTHING. IT ALL SEEMS SO HOPELESS!
I WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW!
CONGRATULATIONS, MASTER PROCESSOR--THE IMPERATOR WILL BE OVER-JOYED AT YOUR SUCCESS!
THEN ALL THE COLORS START RUNNING TOGETHER AGAIN. MY ANGER WASHES AWAY AND I FEEL ONLY A HOLLOW PAIN--
--AND I'M AFRAID!
WHAT THEY DID, DADDY --THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, IS IT?
NO, SISSIE. I SWEAR! I--
THE FEEDBACK--I ALMOST FORGOT! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN MY PYRAMID'S PSYCHIC RELAYS FINALLY OVERLOAD!
DON'T BE AFRAID, SISSIE. I'LL GET OUT FIRST--AND CATCH YOU WHEN YOU EXIT!
IF WE REMAINED INSIDE, THE PSI FORCE BUILD-UP COULD KILL US! I CAN'T CHANCE IT. WE'VE GOT TO RUN AND HOPE THE FEEDBACK SETS OFF A CHAIN...

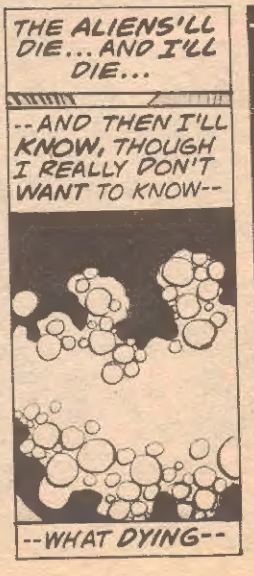

...REACTION...
NO! PLEASE--NO! HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET HERE SO DAMNED FAST?!
SISSIE! HONEY--STAY INSIDE! STAY INSIDE!
SHE'S SAFE THERE! YOU CAN'T HURT HER IF SHE STAYS INSIDE THE PYRAMID... BUT THE FEEDBACK... IT COULD DESTROY HER!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE US ALONE? WE ONLY WANT THE SAME THINGS YOU DESIRE... TO SURVIVE... TO MAINTAIN ...TO GIVE OUR YOUNG THE CHANCE TO LIVE BETTER LIVES!
I KNOW WE SELDOM GIVE THEM THAT--
--BUT IT IS WHAT MOST OF US WANT.
WE CAN TALK, CAN'T WE? WE CAN--
KRAK-KUKK!
I HEAR DADDY, AND I HEAR MOMMY DYING, AND I START CRYING--


--BUT I DON'T THINK I'M CRYING FOR DADDY OR MOMMY... BUT FOR ME--
--'CAUSE I'M ALL ALONE AND DADDY PROMISED ME, HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO US, EVER. HE PROMISED!
THEY'RE OUT THERE, WAITING ...I KNOW THEY'RE OUT THERE, THEY CAN'T FOOL ME, EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK THEY CAN.

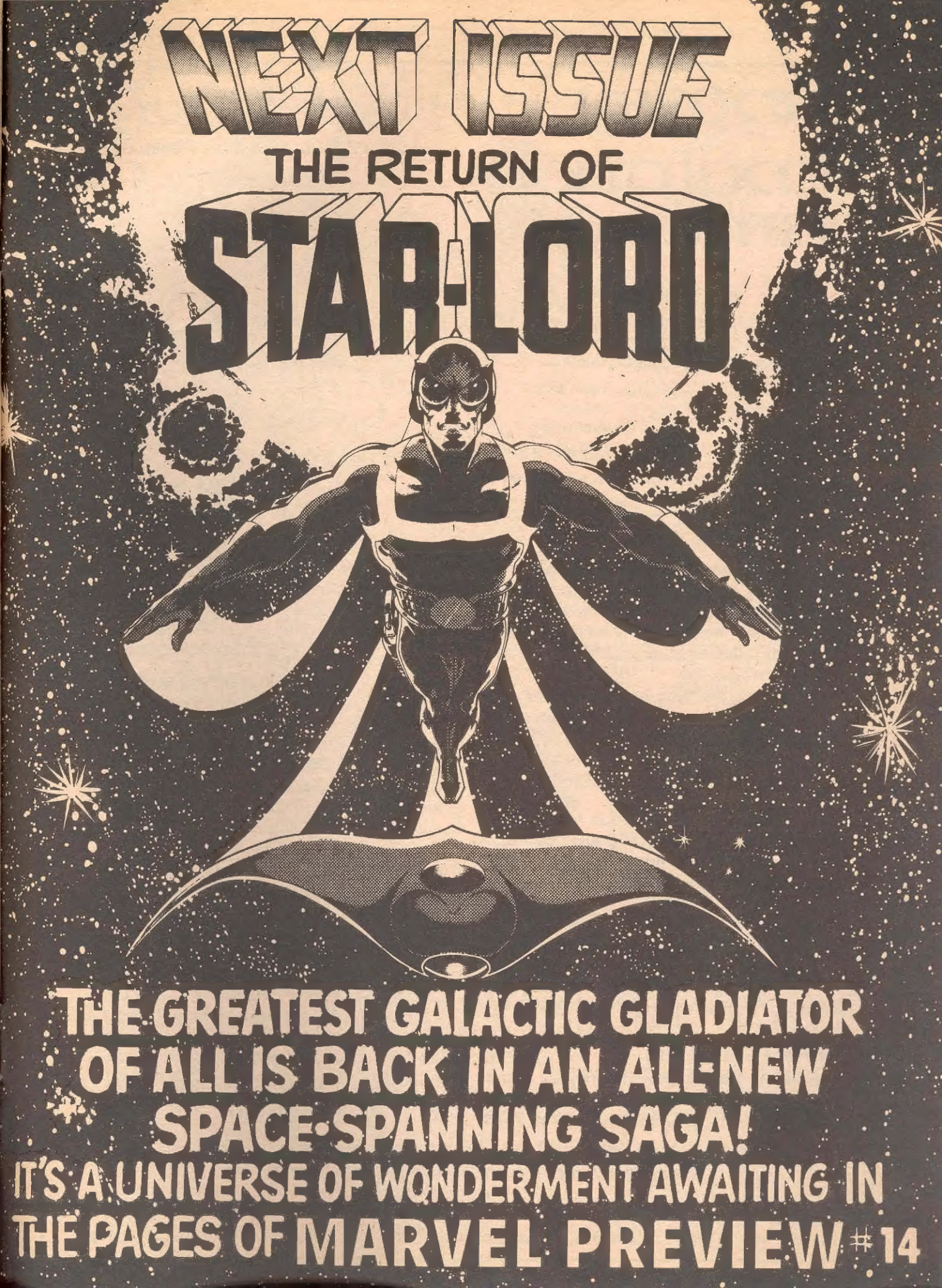
I REMEMBER WHAT ELSE DADDY SAID, LOTS OF THINGS, AND I LOVE HIM, AND I AM CRYING FOR BOTH MY DADDY AND MOMMY-- AS WELL AS ME.
I SEE TWINKLING LIGHTS, KINDA LIKE TINKER BELL'S LIGHTS, OR LIKE THE BEDTIME STORIES MOMMY AND DADDY USED TO TELL ME ABOUT THE TOOTH FAIRY COMING TO LEAVE MONEY DURING THE NIGHT--

--BUT I KNOW TOOTH FAIRIES AREN'T REAL, AND NOW THE LIGHTS ARE SO BRIGHT THAT THEY HURT--
--AND THEY'RE INSIDE MY HEAD NOW AND IT HURTS SO MUCH--

--AND I KNOW I CAN LEAVE THE PYRAMID, BUT THEN THE ALIENS'LL WIN ...AND I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, 'CAUSE THEY KILLED MY MOMMY AND DADDY--
--AND IF I STAY HERE I KNOW THE ALIENS'LL DIE SLOW AND HURT BAD.


THE ALIENS'LL DIE... AND I'LL DIE...
--AND THEN I'LL KNOW, THOUGH I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW--
--WHAT DYING--

--REALLY--
--IS.


NEXT ISSUE
THE RETURN OF
STAR-LORD
THE GREATEST GALACTIC GLADIATOR OF ALL IS BACK IN AN ALL-NEW SPACE-SPANNING SAGA!
IT'S A UNIVERSE OF WONDERMENT AWAITING IN THE PAGES OF MARVEL PREVIEW #14